

Television film of Israelis beating Palestinians have sparked some indignation among Turkey's mostly Muslim population of 55 million and the right-wing Tercuman newspaper sponsored a day of prayer Friday.



# Car-bomb kills Amal commander in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — A booby-trapped car exploded in a South Beirut Shi'ite Muslim district Saturday, killing a local militia commander, police said.

The victim was identified as Abbas Awadiah, 33, commander of Justice Minister Nabih Berri's Shi'ite Amal militia in the suburban Bir Al Abed district, police said.

The explosion occurred at 8:30 a.m. (0630 GMT), when Awadiah turned on the ignition of his car to go to work. Three pedestrians suffered slight shrapnel injuries, police added.

No group claimed responsibility for the killing.

The blast scene is about 50 metres away from the residence of Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, spiritual guide of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah extremist faction.

But police said the influential cleric was not a target.

## Bomb defused near Air France office

Meanwhile an army explosives expert safely defused a powerful car bomb near an Air France office in Christian east Beirut early Saturday, police said.

They said army warrant officer Youssef Bitar, who defused the bomb, estimated its power at 40 kilograms (88 pounds).

The charge was rigged in a blue Peugeot automobile parked in front of a sales office for Air France, the French national carrier, in east Beirut's suburban district of Jal Al Deeh.

There was no one at the office

when the bomb was discovered and dismantled around 12:30 a.m. (2230 GMT Friday), police said.

They said an investigation was under way to determine whether the bomb was related to a chain of attacks against Frenchmen in the Christian sector of the Lebanese capital.

The last previous such attack came Tuesday, when gunmen shot and killed Frenchman Jacques Meurant with silencer-equipped automatic pistols as he drove his car in east Beirut's Ashrafieh district.

No group claimed responsibility for the assassination, which occurred two blocks from Lebanon's General Security Headquarters.

Police said Meurant carried a Lebanese residence permit issued in October that listed his occupation as salesman. But the French news agency Agence France Presse quoted well informed sources in Paris as saying Meurant worked for the French secret service.

Meurant was the fifth Frenchman killed in Christian-controlled areas in 16 months.

French engineer Richard Gimpel, 46, was shot and seriously wounded on Nov. 11 as he drove his car on the highway linking Beirut and the Falangist port of Jounieh.

He died in hospital 13 days later.

Two gunmen in a speeding car

raked three French embassy guards with automatic gunfire as they shopped in east Beirut's Dora district on Oct. 29. Lt. Christian Mondon and Warrant Officer Andre Cruz were killed while Pvt. Miguel Collignon was seriously wounded.

Military Attaché Col. Christian Goutierre, 60, was shot and killed near the embassy's compound in east Beirut's Hazmieh district on Sept. 18, 1986.

No group has claimed responsibility for the killings.

The Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) Friday disclaimed any involvement in the attacks on Frenchmen in east Beirut.

"We had nothing to do with any of the Frenchmen's killings in east Beirut," said an ASALA statement distributed by hand to Western news agency offices in mainly Muslim west Beirut. "Our struggle remains focused against Turkey's fascist regime."

ASALA is one of several underground Armenian factions fighting for an independent Armenian homeland in eastern Turkey. It had claimed carrying out several terrorist attacks against Turkish targets in the Middle East, Europe and the United States.

The Armenian group said the denial was necessary because a Lebanese Christian faction called the May 9 Movement had recently released a statement accusing ASALA of killing the Frenchmen.

The May 9 Movement has not made itself known in Lebanon before.

# Naji Al Ali awarded Press Freedom Prize

PARIS (AP) — The International Federation of Newspaper Publishers (FIJ) awarded its annual Press Freedom Prize Monday to Naji Al Ali, the Palestinian cartoonist shot to death last year in London.

The 1988 FIJ Golden Pen of Freedom is the first in 27 years to be given either to an Arab or to a cartoonist and is only the second awarded posthumously.

Ali was 49 when he was killed by unidentified gunmen last July in London, where he had been living in exile. FIJ said that while no group claimed responsibility and the killer has never been identified, the murder was widely seen as an act of revenge by one of the Middle Eastern groups he satirised.

"It is a major function of the free press to comment upon and criticise the actions and policies of governments," FIJ said in awarding the prize. "This has been achieved in a most notable form by cartoonists as well as by writers."

The Paris-based publishers organisation said Ali used his drawings to attack tyranny wherever he saw it in the Middle East.

"His cartoons were so sharp that he offended every government in the region. His opposition to intolerance resulted in the censorship of his work and banishment. But his work also attracted a wide following among those promoting compromise and understanding between governments and peoples."

"By awarding the Golden Pen to Naji Al Ali, FIJ also wishes to recognise those other Arab journalists forced to live in exile because the only side they agree to take in a region crippled by its divisions is that of integrity and truth."

Ali left Palestine during the 1948 exodus and spent the rest of his youth in a refugee camp in southern Lebanon. Working at different times both in Beirut and Kuwait, his drawings appeared in magazines and newspapers throughout the Middle East.

Frequently detained by police and frequently censored, Ali finally was expelled from Kuwait in 1985.

# Bahraini crown prince in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Bahrain's Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa arrived in Egypt Saturday for talks on Middle East issues and bilateral cooperation.

Sheikh Hamad, who is also defence minister, was greeted at the airport by Prime Minister Atef Sedki, with whom he was due to hold talks later.

The prince, on a three-day visit, will meet Defence Minister Field-Marshal Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala Sunday and President Hosni Mubarak Monday.

Sheikh Hamad told reporters he hoped his talks would help "forge a unified stand to achieve the goals of the Arab nation."

# Meese urged to delay closure of PLO's U.N. office

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The State Department's legal adviser is pressing Attorney General Edwin Meese to delay application of a law closing the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) observer mission at the United Nations, according to American diplomats and United Nations officials, the New York Times has said.

In a letter sent to Attorney General Meese Wednesday, these officials say, the adviser, Abraham Sofaer, said that closing the PLO mission would be perceived by the rest of the world as a violation of international law that could undermine new United States efforts to promote a Middle East peace settlement and damage America's standing throughout the world. If the closure move is not turned back, Arab nations hope to reconvene the General Assembly in the next few weeks to consider the issue, the Times said.

Against strong opposition from the Reagan administration, Congress voted last year to close both the PLO information office in Washington and the observer mission at the United Nations. The PLO measure was attached to the two-year, \$8.3 billion State

Department spending bill, which President Reagan signed although he found some provisions objectionable.

The legislation does not ban PLO representatives from entering the United States, but it makes it difficult for them to function by denying them the right to maintain offices and by banning Americans from accepting payment from them.

The State Department has asked the Attorney General to agree to arbitration in the dispute, using the settlement mechanism in the 1947 agreement by which the United Nations established its headquarters in New York, the Times said.

Under the settlement mechanism, the closing of the PLO observer mission, which is scheduled to take place March 21, would automatically be delayed until the World Court gave its opinion on the legality of the American move, and until a three-member tribunal, named specially to judge the issue, handed down a final, binding decision based on the court's ruling.

According to some people familiar with the contents of the letter to Mr. Meese, Mr. Sofaer tried to get Secretary of State

George Shultz to sign it, but failed because Mr. Shultz is trying to distance himself from the dispute. Mr. Sofaer's strong stand is not shared by some other ranking State Department officials, administration officials told the Times.

A U.N. spokesman said Friday no dispute has yet arisen between the United Nations and the United States over moves to close the PLO mission.

"We are in the consultation stage with the United States. We have not been informed of a position by the U.S. government that would bring us to the point of having a dispute with the United States," the spokesman added.

He was answering questions about the published report that the U.S. State Department's legal adviser had urged the U.S. attorney general to delay enforcing the new congressional legislation to close the PLO's U.N. office.

Asked about prospects for a Geneva session, the U.N. spokesman said: "I don't think we should even speculate about such a possibility, given the stage at which things are right now."

The headquarters agreement calls for disputes to be resolved by a panel of three arbitrators — one chosen by the U.N. secretary

general, one by the U.S. Secretary of State, and one chosen jointly by the Secretary General and Secretary of State, or, if they cannot agree, by the president of the World Court at The Hague.

The secretary general of the United States may ask the General Assembly to ask the World Court to give an advisory opinion on any legal questions.

State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said Friday the department is in the process of conveying "our position to the attorney general" concerning the future of the PLO's observer mission to the United Nations.

"The attorney general will now determine what is required, both domestically and in our relations with the United Nations, in regards to the mission under the recent legislation (passed by the U.S. Congress) dealing with PLO offices in the United States," Oakley said.

"No final decisions are being made," the State Department spokeswoman emphasised. "We've given our recommendations; it's up to the attorney general, and we expect his decision to be announced very soon."

# Iraq denies seeking pipeline guarantees

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq denied Saturday that it sought any guarantees for the security of a proposed oil pipeline that is at the center of a new controversy surrounding U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese.

The denial, contained in a statement by Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Nizar Hamdoun, was the first publicly released Iraqi reaction to the latest allegations about Meese.

It had originally been teleaxed earlier in the week to the New York Times' office in Athens as the result of a query from the Times, and was released here at the request of the Associated Press.

Meese is the top U.S. law enforcement official and a close friend of President Ronald Reagan.

The projected pipeline, to run from Iraq to the Port of Aden, was mooted in the early 1980s as an alternative to Iraq's war-affected Gulf sea lanes.

A close friend of Meese's, attorney E. Robert Wallach, had a financial interest in the project and sent Meese a memo citing a plan to pay off a top Israeli official in return for a guarantee that Israel would not destroy the

pipeline, sources close to the investigation have confirmed.

In a two-paragraph statement, Hamdoun said:

"Iraq and Jordan were involved in commercial discussion with Bechtel (the big U.S. contractor) in 1984 with its proposal to build a pipeline to Aden. The company could not meet our security and financial requirements."

"Therefore, discussions were discontinued sometime in late 1984. Iraq has never asked for any political guarantees from any party for the security of the proposed project."

The Los Angeles Times has reported that Wallach was promoting the project on behalf of Iraq. There have been no reports that Iraq itself directly sought any security guarantees.

Meese has confirmed that the memo was provided to him, but has said he does not recall having read that passage in the document and has denied any wrongdoing.

There have been reports that Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was targeted to be bribed. Peres has said no such approach was made to him.

In the United States, the 1977

Foreign Corrupt Practices Act generally forbids companies and individuals from making payments to foreign government officials to secure help in obtaining or retaining business.

The pipeline project never came to fruition.

Meanwhile Swiss oilman Bruce Rappaport denied Friday any wrongdoing in a billion-dollar Iraqi pipeline plan.

A statement from the offices of Rappaport's Inter Maritime Group said:

"Bruce Rappaport, a Swiss businessman mentioned in recent media reports regarding the proposed Iraq-Aden pipeline, today disclaimed any knowledge or participation in any unlawful or improper activity regarding the pipeline project."

The statement added: "Mr. Rappaport felt compelled to make this statement because of false or otherwise misleading statements appearing in various publications suggesting that he had been instrumental in arranging payments to be made to one or more Israeli government officials or political parties in exchange for official Israeli government support of the project."

# Baghdad sends military aid to Sudan

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq has sent military aid to Sudan to help the government fight secessionists in the south of the country, a senior Sudanese official said in remarks published Saturday.

"The Iraqi military aid helped the Sudanese army to liberate Karmak and Kizan towns from the insurgents (in the south)," Pacifico Lolik, a member of Sudan's Supreme Council, told the Thawba Party newspaper Al Thawba.

Iraq sent helicopter gunships and other military hardware to

Sudan last year, diplomats said. Rebels of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) have fought troops since 1983 in a bid to give the south more autonomy over its affairs.

Lolik arrived in Baghdad Sunday and had talks with President Saddam Hussein and other officials on the Iran-Iraq war and bilateral issues.

Ethiopian jets attack Sudanese village

Two Khartoum newspapers re-

ported Saturday that Ethiopian MiGs attacked a Sudanese border village Thursday, killing two people and wounding nine.

Al Sudan and Al Raya said the raid, by swing-wing MiG-23s, sent inhabitants of the village, located near Kassala town in eastern Sudan, fleeing to nearby hills.

There was no immediate confirmation of the reports available in Khartoum.

Relations between Sudan and Ethiopia have been tense for years with each accusing the other of supporting rebels.

# China calls for more cooperation with Iran

PEKING (R) — A senior Chinese leader Saturday told a visiting Iranian delegation Peking hoped to "strengthen its co-operation with Iran in all fields," the official New China News Agency reported.

Chinese Vice-President Ulanhu said at a formal meeting with the group from Iran's Islamic Consultative Assembly that "a long-term steady and friendly relationship will be beneficial to the people of our two countries."

The agency gave no further details of meetings with the delegation, which arrived Thursday for a one-week "goodwill" visit led by the assembly's Deputy Speaker Hojatoleslam Mohammad Yazdi.

The U.S. has protested against China's alleged supplies of Silk-worm missiles to Iran for use in the Gulf war, and slowed the expansion of high-technology trade to Peking in retaliation.

Western officials have also alleged that China supplied large quantities of arms to Iraq in the early stages of the eight-year-old war.

India, UAE call for Gulf peace

India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Saturday called for the U.N. Security Council order for a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war to be implemented.

The UAE News Agency WAM said both countries also called for efforts to find a Middle East peace settlement that guaranteed inalienable Palestinian rights.

## TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION		BBC WORLD SERVICE	
Tel: 77311-19		629, 720, 1223 KHz	
<b>PROGRAMME ONE</b>			
15:30	Koran	06:00	Newsweek 06:30 Capriccio 06:45
15:50	Programme Review	Reflections 06:50 Financial Review	07:00 World News 07:09 Twenty-Four
15:55	Cartoons	Hours: News Summary 07:30 Stuart	Colman's Record Hop 07:45 Letter
16:05	Dennis the Menace	from America 08:00 Newsweek 08:30	Jazz for the Asking 09:00 World News
16:15	Programme Review	09:09 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30	From Our Own Correspondent 09:45
17:20	Isaura	Book Choice 09:50 Wavelength 10:00	World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15
17:35	Local programme	Pleasures Yours 11:00 World News	11:09 The Sunday Papers 11:15 Science
18:10	Summer	in Action 11:15 A Hobby — or a Way of	Life? 12:00 News Summary: Short Story
19:10	Local programme	12:15 Classical Record Review 12:30	Religious Service 13:00 World News
19:15	Programme Review	13:09 News About Britain 13:15	From Our Own Correspondent 13:30
20:30	News in Arabic	Musical Masters of the Baroque 14:00	News Summary: Play of the Week: My
20:45	Americas	Wife 15:00 World News 15:09 Twenty-	Four Hours: News Summary 15:30
21:00	Programme on America	Sports Roundup 15:45 The Saudi Jokes	Request Show 16:30 Back to Square
22:00	T.V. Magazine (Local)	One 17:00 Radio Newsweek 17:15	International Record 18:00 World News
23:00	News Summary	18:09 Commentary 18:15 Futus: Desire	and the Devil 18:45 Letter from
23:10	Close down	America 19:00 World News 19:09	Reflections 19:15 Jazz for the Asking
<b>PROGRAMME TWO</b>			
18:00	Rue Carrot	19:45 Sports Roundup 20:00 Newsweek	20:30 Just a Minute 21:00 News Sum-
18:30	L'Ecole des Fais	mary: Classical Record Review 21:15	Feature/Drama 12:00 World News
19:00	News in French	22:09 Twenty-Four Hours: News	Summary 22:30 Sunday Half Hour
19:15	International Circus Festival	23:00 News Summary: Short Story	23:15 Pleasures Yours 24:00 World
19:30	News in Hebrew	News 06:09 I've Been Together Now	for 70 Years 06:25 Book Choice 06:30
19:45	Varieties	Financial Review 06:40 Reflections	06:45 Sports Roundup 01:00 World
20:00	News in Arabic	News 01:09 Commentary 01:15 Letter	from America 01:30 Australia 20
20:30	Farrington of the F.O.	Years On	
21:10	Australia (documentary) — Part 2		
22:00	News in English		
22:30	Secret Army		
<b>RADIO JORDAN</b>			
88.5 KHz: AM & 90 MHz: FM at party on 89.0 KHz. SW Tel: 77111-19			
07:00	Light Music	06:00	News 06:10 World Morning 07:00
07:30	Newsweek	News 07:10 VOA Morning 08:00 News	08:10 VOA Morning 17:00 News 17:10
08:00	Morning Show	News Horizons 17:30 Studio One 18:00	News 18:10 Encounter 18:30 Special
11:05	In Concert	English News 18:45 Newsweek 19:00	19:10 Critic's Choice 19:30 Issues in
12:00	News Summary	the News 20:00 News 20:10 Encounter	20:30 Special English News & Features
12:05	Pop Talk	21:00 News 21:15 Sunday Report 21:30	Music 21:40 Newsweek 22:00 News
13:00	News Summary	22:10 The Concert Hall 22:45 Editorial	23:00 News 23:10 News Horizons 23:30
13:05	Pop Session cont'd.	Studio One	
14:00	News Bulletin		
14:10	Instruments		
14:30	Science Report		
15:00	Concert Hour		
16:00	News Summary		
16:05	Instruments		
16:30	Old Favorites		
17:00	Litterers' Choice		
17:30	News Summary		
18:05	Rhythm and Blues		
19:00	News Bulletin		
19:30	Date with a Star		
20:00	Evening Show		
21:00	News Summary		
21:05	Evening Show continued		
21:55	News Summary		
22:00	Evening Show continued		
22:00	News Summary		
23:57	News Headline		
24:00	Close Down		

## WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	SERVICE CLUBS
<b>FOLK DANCE</b>	The Amman Lions Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre (part of the American Film Festival until Feb. 10).
<b>AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL</b>	The Amman Lions Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre (part of the American Film Festival until Feb. 10).
<b>CULTURAL CENTRES</b>	Royal Cultural Centre ... Tel. 6610267 American Cultural Centre ... 644371 British Council ... 6361478 French Cultural Centre ... 637009 Goethe Institute ... 641921 Soviet Cultural Centre ... 644203 Spanish Cultural Centre ... 620499 Turkish Cultural Centre ... 637777 H. W. C. A. ... 661915 Y.W.C.A. ... 664251 Amman Municipal Library ... 637111 Univ. of Jordan Library ... 843555
<b>MUSEUMS</b>	"Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Hays Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
	Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Munta-

## FOR THE TRAVELLER

THE LANCET

# QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information Department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (06) 53300-5, where it should always be verified.

## ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

09:15	Amman (RJ)
09:30	Kuwait (RJ)
09:40	Jeddah (SV)
09:55	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:05	Cairo (RJ)
10:10	London (BA)
10:30	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
10:50	Paris (RJ)
11:00	Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ)
11:15	Brussels, Geneva (RF)
11:30	Madrid, Rome (RJ)
11:50	Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
12:35	Baghdad (RJ)

## OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

09:00	Berlin (IF)
09:35	Cairo (MS)
1:20	Damascus (AZ)
1:45	Kuwait (LN)
2:45	Sharjah, Doha (GF)
3:30	Jeddah (SV)
5:30	Kuwait (RJ)
6:30	Baghdad (IA)
6:35	Athens (OA)
9:15	Beirut (MS)
9:15	Frankfurt (LF)
11:05	Cairo (MS)
11:05	London, Cairo (BA)

## DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

09:00	Amman (RJ)
09:10	Vienna, New York (BA)
09:30	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
09:30	Cairo (RJ)
09:35	Kuwait (RJ)
09:40	Dhahran (RJ)
09:45	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
09:55	Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00	Baghdad (IA)
10:05	Lamaca (RJ)
10:30	Jeddah, Sana'a (SV)
10:35	Cairo (RJ)
11:15	Damascus (AZ)
12:00	Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
12:30	Bangkok (RJ)

## OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

09:00	Damascus, Paris (AF)
09:20	Cairo (MS)
09:30	Berlin (IF)
12:10	Rome (AZ)
13:00	Tripoli (LN)
13:05	Bahrain, Sharjah (GF)
14:00	Jeddah (SV)
15:00	Kuwait (RJ)
16:30	Baghdad (IA)
17:20	Athens (OA)
20:00	Sana'a (LS)
21:50	Cairo (MS)

## MONEY EXCHANGE

### Saturday rates

Local sell/buy rates in ffs	
Belgian franc	94.8/ 96.3
Dutch guilder	176.4/ 179.4
French franc	38.8/ 39.7
Italian lire	27/ 27.4
Japanese yen (for 100)	260.6/ 265.6
Swedish crown	53.9/ 56.9
Swiss franc	241.4/ 246.3
U.S. sterling pound	59.2/ 60.2
U.S. dollar	337.8/ 342.9
W. German mark	198.1/ 201.7

## PRAYER TIMES

05:43	Fajr
06:22	(Sunrise) Dhuha
11:59	Dhuhr
14:59	'Asr
17:17	Maghrib
18:37	'Isha

## WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy with slight rain. Slight rise in temperature will occur. The wind will be northwesterly. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy, northerly wind and calm sea.

	Min./max. temp.
Amman	5/ 14
Deserts	10/ 21
Jordan Valley	9/ 20

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 10° April 18. Humidity readings: Amman 57 per cent. Aqaba 45 per cent.



## Zarqa nursing college project launched today

By Sana Atiyeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh today lays the foundation stone for the nursing college and paramedical institute project in Zarqa, a Health Ministry source said Saturday.

The college, which would graduate 100 registered nurses and 25 legal midwives per year, is expected to be completed by the end of next year, according to the source. The institute is also expected to graduate 100 paramedics a year.

The project is being built on 10,000 square metres at a cost of JD 980,000, the source told the Jordan Times.

Currently, the ministry rents the small building for the nursing college in Zarqa, which graduates only three nurses and nine midwives a year. Since Jordan suffers from a shortage of registered nurses, midwives and paramedics, the new college is being established in an effort to encourage young Jordanians to join these professions, the source said.

## Electricity workers elect new federation board

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Federation of Electricity Workers has elected nine members to serve on its new board for the next four years.

The nine are: Samir Qarden, who won 1178 votes, Hatmal Akaleh (846), Issa Jariri (809), Mohammad Fauri (769), Fleh Dabouhi (765), Mousa Saoud (740) Said Hnssein Zakha (727), Hassan Ali Hussein (669), and Abdul Wadud Rahab (638).

Samir Qarden, who served as chairman of the previous board of

directors, said in a statement following the announcement of the results that his success in the election reflected a general recognition of his past efforts and diligent work in serving the electricity workers.

Qarden is expected to be made chairman of the new board, as he won the largest number of votes in the election held Thursday. The counting of votes continued until early Friday and the results were not disclosed until Friday morning.

## JMI, JUST review prospects for cooperation

IRBID (Petra) — Director-General of the Jordanian Medical Institution (JMI) Dr. Daoud Hanania Saturday visited the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) in Irbid and met with President Dr. Kamel Ajlouni.

Ajlouni briefed Hanania on the university's educational program-

mes and medical faculty plans.

Hanania, who is also director of the Royal Medical Services, discussed with Ajlouni cooperation between JMI and the JUST, and later inspected recently-built infrastructure of the King Abdul-Hospital which will serve as a training hospital for JUST medical students.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday addresses an Arab Thought Forum session on the social and economic dimensions of the Lebanese crisis (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

## Mayors, municipal council heads urged to address public demands

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yousef Hamdan Al Jaber Saturday urged heads of municipal councils to interact with their local communities with the purpose of identifying the public's demands, problems and proposals, in order to pave the way for improving public and municipal services.

Addressing 39 heads of municipal councils and mayors gathered at a seminar on higher administration in municipal affairs, the minister said that the mayor should be regarded as the first person responsible for the town, and that the mayor should work towards upgrading services and benefiting from scientific and technological development.

The mayor's work should focus on promoting municipal services, meeting the growing demands of a rapidly increasing population and the changes in the social structure, Jaber noted.

He said that many municipalities still suffer from negative attitudes among administrators,

which tends to complicate work and retard development. Some mayors do not abide by the promises and pledges made to their townspeople before elections, and some tend to carry out projects in one area and neglect others, the minister explained.

The municipality, he said, is a social institution and not a mere building, and should deal with the public accordingly.

He urged mayors and heads of councils to give proper attention to organisational matters while implementing public service projects in their regions.

In addition, Jaber said that these administrators should try to stimulate social and cultural life through establishing public libraries and initiating other activities. He said that Jordanian municipalities ought to prepare themselves for the advent of the 21st century by preparing studies and plans for improving social, cultural, economic and administrative functions, and through establishing data banks on services that can be

sources of information for further planning.

Dean of the Yarmouk University Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences Dr. Abdul Bari Al Durra also addressed the meeting, underlining the need to coordinate the efforts of all concerned parties in implementing service projects.

Durra was representing Yarmouk University President Dr. Mohammad Hamdan. The university helped organise the six-day seminar.

The participants will discuss the implementation of development projects, mayoral skills, project planning, employing technology and enlisting the help of specialists in managing municipal affairs, handling financial resources, city and village organisation.

The mayors and heads of councils will be taken to Yarmouk University on the last day of the seminar for a final session and a tour of municipal councils in Irbid Governorate.

## Prince Hassan urges Arab assistance to Lebanon in efforts to overcome crisis

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Decisionmakers in the Arab World have many lessons to learn from the Lebanese problem, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan told a session of the Arab Thought Forum Saturday.

Addressing a session on the Lebanese war in a speech read on his behalf by Mr. Akram Zu'aiter, the Crown Prince stressed that there was a need to "understand the socioeconomic elements that could contribute to solving the crisis." He pointed to the difficult economic and living conditions suffered by the Lebanese for the past three years.

"There is a lesson we, Arabs, must learn from the Lebanese war, related to the duty of the state towards the society," Prince Hassan said.

"If we all agreed that the state is a comprehensive legitimate authority whose mission is to control social interactions as a prerequisite for peace, then we should think deeply about the nature of the ideal state if we want to develop the society," he continued.

The Crown Prince said that "a state which the society seeks to destroy is unfeasible, as the state loses its raison d'être and becomes vulnerable to outside intervention."

Prince Hassan said that intellectuals should be seeking "a contract between the state and the society, and a creative balance in which the state serves as a fence around the society — a means of control and a tool of development."

The Arab Thought Forum, he said, seeks to strengthen the ties

of Arab societies, firmly rejecting all forms of factional and religious discrimination.

He told the forum that Arabs should benefit from the harmonious atmosphere created in the wake of the Amman Arab summit to push forward joint Arab action, and extend a hand to help Lebanon surpass its crisis, end its civil war and restore peace.

Participants in the session on the social and economic dimensions of the Lebanese crisis discussed many aspects of the Lebanese problem, including demographic changes and the psychological effects of the war on Lebanese people.

**Crown Prince comments on working papers**

Prince Hassan, who arrived at the session later, commented on the working papers presented to the meeting, and paid tribute to the Lebanese people for their serious attempts to deal with their problems.

One of the papers on the Lebanese situation, the Crown Prince said, presented three different conceptions of Lebanon's future: further deterioration in the situation, agreement among the factions and parties on a

formula for a solution, and a pluralistic rebellion that would cancel the other two scenarios.

But on the whole, Prince Hassan said, one could detect positive elements in the attempts in these papers to tackle the crisis in Lebanon. "Positive factors in the papers are, in fact, in greater number than in those papers that tackled Jordan's social and economic crises in 1971," he said.

Despite difficulties, the Kingdom was then able to raise \$600 million in loans and grants to invest in development projects, Prince Hassan added.

The Crown Prince echoed a call by acting Lebanese Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss for the attainment of at least a minimum level of consensus among Lebanese groups on a formula for resolving their problem.

Prince Hassan expressed hope that, in the next three months, the Lebanese people and the different parties and factions would arrive at such consensus to deal with their battered economy.

The Crown Prince then referred to the economic situation in the Southeast Asia region which includes Lebanon and Jordan, among other Arab countries, and praised the important bilateral agreements concluded between Arab countries and the European Community.

He said that these agreements, coupled with the participation of Japan in the region's development, clearly represented part of an overall international cooperation.

## GUVS council stresses aid to W. Bank, Gaza

AMMAN (Petra) — General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) President Abdullah Al Khatib Saturday said that the financial aid which the union provided to charitable societies in the Kingdom in 1987 reached JD 1,032,000. He said that nearly JD 30,000 from this total was given to charitable societies in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to support the steadfastness of Palestinians.

Khatib was speaking at a meeting of the GUVS executive council held Saturday under the chairmanship of Minister of Labour and Social Development Rashid Ureikat.

The minister paid tribute to the

Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, and said that the union had been combating poverty, hunger and disease in the East and West Banks.

Ureikat noted that the ministry was considering creating a higher council for social development to organise the work of charitable societies and social organisations.

The Kingdom's general multi-Sheikh Izzuddin Al Khatib Al Tamimi, who is also the chairman of the piaster-a-day charity scheme, said that 190 students from the East and the West Banks benefitted from the JD 106,000 in financial aid distributed through the scheme last year.

## Arab Wings on call to serve time-conscious Mideast travellers

By Rania Atalla  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Royal Jordanian subsidiary Arab Wings, which provides executive jet charter services, in a little more than a decade has established itself as a self-sufficient company pioneering in moving time-conscious people around the Middle East.

In its 12 years of operation, Amman-based Arab Wings has also become a major regional service and maintenance centre for executive aircraft, and is considering introducing a domestic helicopter service.

With a fleet of 3 Sabreliners (75 A), Arab Wings has more than just "plain" charters to offer. It flies time-conscious executives and dignitaries to their destinations, offering a wide-range of services including executive services, handling and maintenance.

When Arab Wings (AW) was established in 1975, "the idea was for a charter to serve businesspeople and government officials to move in the area," according to AW Managing Director Sharif Ghazi Rakan. "There was a vacuum which needed some thing like Arab Wings to fill it."

AW flies to wherever its customers wish to go; it has no specific flight routes. But with Amman as its base, and two other sub-bases in Dubai and Bahrain, most of AW's activity centres around the Middle East, particularly the Gulf region.

The advantages of AW over regular airlines is that when travelling with a regular airline, "a passenger is tied to the set schedule," Sharif Ghazi said, noting that "with our airplanes, it is the reverse: the plane is there for you, and whenever you decide to leave, the plane is ready for your service, just like a limousine."

The company was named "Arab Wings" because the original idea was for all Arab states to be partners in it. Though all

states showed interest, only Oman took a share. AW is now co-owned by Royal Jordanian (RJ) and the Sultanate of Oman (76 and 24 per cent, respectively), and is managed entirely by Jordanians.

AW's clients are mainly executives, businesspeople, government officials and dignitaries. But on a number of occasions AW aircraft have been chartered by major news agencies covering time-sensitive events in the area, such as the Iranian Revolution and the Lebanese civil war.

There are no specific commercial conditions by which AW must abide. Rather, there are "open skies" arrangements with almost all destination countries, which means that overflying and landing rights are obtained annually. According to As'ad Nimry at the Ground Operations Department, only notification procedures are required and are usually made just prior to the aircraft's departure.

This enables AW to respond efficiently to client requests. In one or two hours provided an aircraft is available, Nimry told the Jordan Times. AW can arrange for a client to depart as soon it charts an aircraft from another company.

AW's charges depend on the duration of the flight, but usually fall at \$1,650 per hour. "This is a price which we found to be reasonable and acceptable to people," according to Sharif Ghazi, who has been managing director of AW for seven years.

These hourly rates cover the time it takes the aircraft to go from base to base. But since there are two other regional sub-bases in the far for the customer travelling within the Middle East is lower. If a passenger wishes to travel from Amman to Doha, for example, AW would charge for a trip calculated as Amman-Doha-Bahrain, rather than Amman-Doha-Bahrain-Amman. Therefore, these two sub-bases

enable us to respond faster to clients, and to try to give them the advantage of a cheaper rate," Sharif Ghazi told the Jordan Times.

A one-way flight from Amman to Aqaba, for example, would cost \$2,475, while an Amman-Aqaba-Amman trip made on the same day would cost \$3,095. Aircraft can also be chartered on a daily basis for \$4,950, a price which includes two and a half hours of flight per day. Each additional flying hour costs an extra \$1,650, and each overnight stay an additional \$375.

There are basically no conditions for customers to charter an AW aircraft, provided they can afford to pay the bill, that is. But to be sure, for those who can, the quoted prices include a number of services such as in-flight calls to any country and hot meals and beverages served by a hostess. On ground, AW can arrange for executive services such as hotel reservations, appointments and limousine service. "We try to think ahead and make it as convenient and comfortable as we can for the passenger," Sharif Ghazi said.

The qualifications of AW pilots are no different from those of RJ pilots. The minimum requirement is 4,000 flying hours for a captain and 1,000 hours for a first officer, according to Sharif Ghazi. The pilots usually attend initial courses in the United States to train on Sabreliner aircraft. After that, the first officers attend a two-week refresher course every six months, while the captains attend the same course every 12 months. At present, all four AW captains are foreign: the chief pilot, Pakistani; while the four first officers are Jordanians.

In 1987, AW registered 1,003 flying hours, only 97 hours short of its target. Two-hundred-and-thirty-two flights carried a total of 1,091 passengers. Income from flight operations alone was 1,685,000. As of Jan. 23 of this year, AW had made 20 flights carrying 38 passengers.

For 1988, AW plans to carry on with the same target of 1,100 flying hours. "This is the maximum we can get out of the present market and situation. We have to work hard to achieve the 1987 target," Sharif Ghazi said.

AW follows the "direct approach" to marketing. "We try to go to certain countries and make contacts with people and customers," Sharif Ghazi said. He explained that because it is a specific target market that AW has in mind, and a specific kind of service that it offers, this direct approach usually works better than commercial advertising.

As for competition, only one other charter company (Egyptian) operates in the area with its base in the Middle East. According to Sharif Ghazi, another charter company (Kuwait Air Taxi) began operating in the region four years ago, but has since closed down. However, "they do not compete with us, and we are not really affected by them," Sharif Ghazi said. He added that

in most cases, charter companies tend to quote prices that do not include the extra services that AW offers.

AW and RJ cooperate in many fields. Every RJ office abroad is considered an AW office, as well. RJ assists AW in obtaining clearance for flights and by receiving reservations for AW through its various offices. AW's foreign clients are encouraged to come from Europe on RJ, and "then we take them to the Gulf," according to Sharif Ghazi. "Rather than compete with them

aircraft was repaired and airborne. "This is a record. We are being called upon by professionals to maintain their aircraft, and it means a great deal to us," Haddadin said.

Since 1981, AW has been considered a Fixed Base Operator (FBO), meaning that the company maintains and services its own and other companies' aircrafts, in addition to acting as distributor and a service centre for several manufacturers of equipment and spare parts.

According to Haddadin, the

manufactures AW aircrafts. Some training courses are also conducted locally at AW facilities.

The result, as far as safety is concerned, is that "Arab Wings has an excellent record," according to Haddadin. "We have had no incidents or accidents since 1977." (Prior to that there were two crashes, none of which involved any passengers.)

For the past five years, AW has earned a safety award from the U.S.-based National Business Aircraft Association. "Safety is a



A Piper Cherokee belonging to the Royal Jordanian Air Academy serviced by Arab Wings headed by Sharif Ghazi Rakan (inset).

(RJ), we complement them."

The largest and perhaps strongest of AW's departments is maintenance and engineering, which employs 24 engineers and technicians comprising almost 50 per cent of AW's staff. According to Maintenance and Engineering Department Director Faisal Haddadin, at the very beginning, the AW aircraft maintenance was carried out by RJ. In 1981 however, AW established its own maintenance department and began offering maintenance services for other aircraft.

AW now maintains all 15 aircraft for the Royal Jordanian Glider Club, one Civil Aviation Authority aircraft, as well as the weather modification aircraft which operates for five months annually.

In addition to these 28 aircraft that are serviced on a regular basis, AW also services any other visiting aircraft. In 1981, AW serviced a U.S. Federal Aviation Administration aircraft. On a number of occasions, AW has also been called upon to service, maintain and repair aircraft for other companies. Haddadin proudly cites an incident when AW was called upon by a Swiss company to service an aircraft that had developed problems in Damascus. AW engineer and technicians were sent to take care of the problem, and within four hours of receiving the call, the

servicing business and the sale of spare parts to neighbouring countries has made the engineering department a source of considerable income for the company. In this respect, "it is fair to say that the maintenance and engineering Department is self-sufficient," Haddadin said.

For every hour of maintenance, AW charges its customers \$35. "These are competitive prices compared to Europe and the U.S. where prices can go up to \$42-47 an hour," according to the department head.

Income aside, the maintenance and servicing business has earned AW considerable experience. "We have been doing that since 1975, and we have come a very, very long way," Haddadin stressed. "Our engineers do a very good job. They are experienced, hand-picked, top professionals; some of them with more than 25 years of experience," he said, noting that 40 per cent of AW technicians and engineers are ex-airforce personnel. The rest have civilian experience. "We feel that this combination works out perfectly, and we would like to keep it this way," Haddadin added.

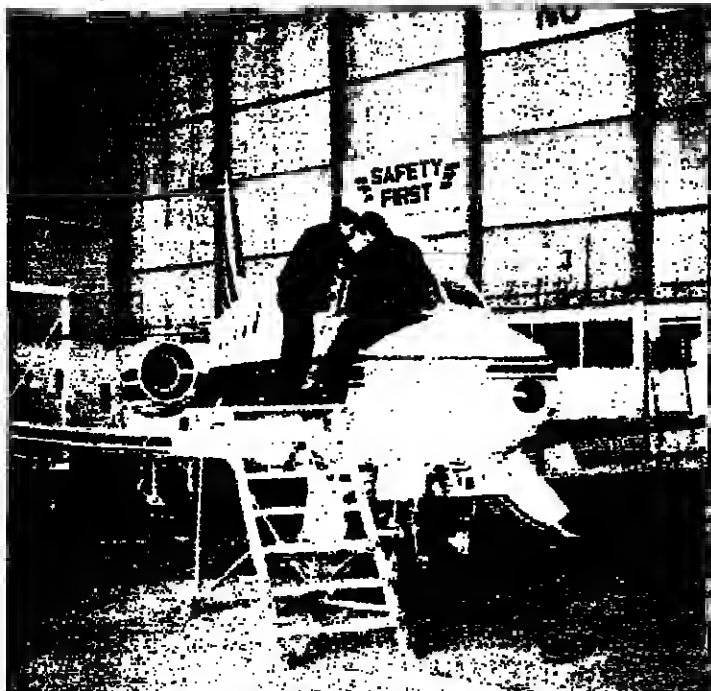
Whether from a civilian or airforce background, AW engineers and technicians each year attend training programmes either at flight safety institutions in the U.S. or at the company that

team effort. Our record is due to a combination of the high standard of maintenance and the professionalism of our pilots," Haddadin said. "These are two things that go hand in hand."

With an eye to the future, AW is now looking at the possibility of introducing helicopter services in Jordan. According to Sharif Ghazi, such a service could serve among other things, to transport internal mail and to transport tourists between Amman, Aqaba, Ma'in and Petra.

"There is much potential for helicopter services in the country, but there are many factors to consider," Sharif Ghazi said. "All our studies so far have been positive, and we sincerely hope to introduce this service in Jordan, because it is needed and could serve a useful purpose."

According to Sharif Ghazi, Arab Wings is an asset to our country in that "it shows Jordan as progressive by offering the much-needed service. And, in its own way, Arab Wings is bringing hard currency into the country. We secured several maintenance contracts and hope that with our plans to expand, we will employ more people," Sharif Ghazi said. "I am proud to say that, right now, all our employees (except the four captains) are Jordanians. This contributes in a small way to serving the country."



One of the three Sabreliner 75A's being serviced at the Arab Wings hangar.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Obeidi returns from Tunis meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary-General of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Mahdi Al Obeidi Friday returned from Tunisia where he took part in the meeting of the Arab Economic and Social Council. Obeidi said that the meeting discussed the financial situations of Arab League organisations. Obeidi expressed his hope that member states would pay their contributions due to these organisations, in order to enable them implement their programmes.

### Teacher training course opens today

AMMAN (Petra) — The Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAJSWF) opens a course here today for training kindergarten teachers. The course will focus in particular on training the 15 participants teaching methods for kindergartens in rural regions.

### Meeting to address technical education

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Technical Education Federation Council will open a two week meeting in Amman Sunday to discuss a number of studies on planning technical education programmes in the Arab World. The meeting, to be opened by Minister of Higher Education Nasereddin Al Assad, will also hold a workshop on teaching methods, planning tests and the use of computers in teaching.

**CHILDREN'S  
DRAWING  
COMPETITION**

The Public Energy and Electricity Services Office in Irbid plans to launch a children's drawing competition on subjects pertaining to energy saving and energy rationing.

#### Conditions:

- Participants should not be above 13 years of age.
- Drawings should be 35 x 28 cm.
- Names and addresses of competitors should appear clearly on the backs of their drawings.
- Drawings should be submitted to the Irbid office through the children's schools or charitable societies by Feb. 28, 1988.

For more information, call the Public Energy and Electricity Services Office in Irbid, tel. 243647; P.O. Box 46.

**The Public Energy and Electricity  
Services Office - Irbid.**



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Responsible Editor and Director General:  
**MOHAMMAD AMAD**

Editor-in-Chief:  
**RAMI G. KHOURI**

Editorial and advertising offices:  
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## Sunday's Economic Pulse

# Free enterprise system needs controls

THE CONCEPT of a free enterprise system is based on private ownership, individuals' initiative and an unimpeded interaction between supply and demand in a free market. However, these features cannot operate in a legal and organisational vacuum, otherwise they would produce chaos and lead to the law of the jungle.

Freedom as a description to an economic system normally means that individuals and groups are allowed to make their own decisions and choices regarding production, consumption and investment. Such decisions are not made for them, or imposed on them, by the government or its officials. This, however, does not mean the absence of laws, regulations and controls, which define and determine the rules of the game, and ensure equal opportunities and fair distribution of income, as distinct from equal distribution of income and wealth.

In Lebanon, for example, the system failed and collapsed, not because it was not free but because of the weakness of the state establishment. The Lebanese central government was unable to set the rules for the system and to enforce them. The economic freedom was reduced to sheer monopolisation, exploitation,

brokerage, and concentration of income and wealth. The logical and inevitable outcome was a disaster.

Some observers like to blame the political Lebanese system which allowed some margin of freedom in the fields of press, "political" parties, organisations, culture and economy. These freedoms should have led Lebanon ahead had they been practised under the protective umbrella of a strong central government willing and able to draw the line, protect the nationhood and hold the violators at bay.

Some writers assail capitalism and the free enterprise system while what they mean is to oppose the role of government as a regulator, and controller to ensure that this system operates properly and yield the desired results.

Our recent call to curb and regulate the interbank market is a case in point on how the rules of the game should be established and enforced to safeguard the free banking system and prevent malpractices.

The free enterprise system has indisputable superiority in creating growth, but that is not all. The door is wide open to ensure fair distribution as well. The accelerated income tax, insurance

against old age, unemployment and disablement, compulsory education, free medical services, welfare state, antitrust laws, accountability to the people, and competition on merit basis are only few tools which are purely capitalistic.

The success of the free enterprise system requires more organisation, regulation, control, antitrust laws, accountability and crack down on the violators. Without these safeguards we end up in chaos.

We are promoters of the free enterprise system. The choice between capitalism and socialism is not the issue. We do have an established system which we describe as a free enterprise system. It should be supported and safeguarded by a comprehensive set of checks and controls to prevent wrong doing.

A free economy should not be taken to mean lack of accountability. The state must play a larger role as regulator and enforcer, to police a fair play of the game. It should not intervene in what citizens would like to produce, consume, buy or sell. What counts is not what system we adopt, but how much scientific methods we use to make that system more effective, fair and immune to cheating, corruption and fraudulence.

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

## Balance, yes; duplicity, no

WHY are we unconvinced of the sincerity of the United States' attempts to play the role of mediator in the Arab-Israeli conflict? Better let an American official speak for his own country. U.S. Ambassador Armando Valladares told the U.N. Commission on Human Rights in Geneva a few days ago that the United States seeks a "balanced approach" to resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict, and added that "the United States recognises that Israel has legitimate security concerns and responsibilities, chief among these responsibilities is to maintain order. Without civil order, no lasting political settlement can be reached."

One asks: If the United States feels that the maintenance of civil order is such a sacred prerequisite of the peaceful resolution of political conflicts in situations of occupation, why is it that the United States funds, arms and diplomatically supports groups in Nicaragua, Namibia and Afghanistan who use assorted means of violence to force the occupiers or the established political powers in those places to engage in political dialogue?

We find the United States to be hypocritical and shameless in its attitude that the Palestinians should not engage in civil disorder to make a political point, but that American-backed groups are encouraged to use violence and civil disorder as a means of making a political point in Nicaragua, Afghanistan and Namibia.

Yes, we would love to see a balanced approach applied to the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict—a balanced approach which affirms the rights of both Israelis and Palestinians to self-determination and security and human dignity. But it is obvious that American exhortations of balance are insincere and unsubstantiated by American policies in other parts of the world. We, along with the rest of the Arab World, are fed up with duplicitous American appeals and the application of double standards in the conduct of American foreign policies.

Is it any wonder, therefore, that the initial reaction to American peace-making moves throughout the Arab World this week has been a sustained, powerful and genuine sense of disbelief? We would welcome a balanced American approach; in the meantime, we are offended by a superpower that preaches balance for others and practices imbalance itself.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

### Al Ra'i: Prince analyses uprising

IN an address to the general assembly of the Arab Thought Forum Friday Prince Hassan analysed the strategic as well as the historic dimensions of the current uprising in the occupied Arab territory. After pointing out the underlying causes of the uprising in the face of oppression, Prince Hassan said that the revolt of the Palestinians has not been a spontaneous action stemming from the deep sufferings and resulting from 20 years of oppression. Jordan, Prince Hassan said, has been the first Arab country to call for an end to Jewish settlements in the occupied Arab land and demanded that the Palestinians be granted self-determination in their own homeland. He also said that Jordan, which is preoccupied with various issues cannot and will not forget or ignore national causes and national responsibilities. His address reached the silent majority of the people as much as it reached the intellectuals gathered at the Arab Thought Forum meeting. He called on the intellectuals and thinkers of the Arab World to reach to different sectors of the public providing them with moral and intellectual teaching and analysing for them the current developments and the present situation. The thinkers and intellectuals he said should not address the situation that currently exist in the Israeli-occupied Arab territory alone, but should rather extend to engulf the whole Arab area with a view to helping the majority of people to understand their present and work for the future.

### Al Dustour: Prince diagnoses revolt

PRINCE Hassan Friday diagnosed various aspects of the current Arab uprising in the face of Israeli oppression and tyranny, and said that the on-going revolt was a great development in the life of the nation. This revolt which was a reaction to 20 years of occupation rule, embarrassed and upset the Israeli leaders and confused their plans, and also prompted many Israelis to ask themselves about the benefits that they can reap out of their present iron fist policies. Prince Hassan called on Arab thinkers and intellectuals gathered at the Arab Thought Forum to reassess the situation in the occupied Arab territory, following nine weeks of uprising and confrontation with the Israeli army. Prince Hassan also referred to Jordan's quiet and practical support and assistance to the Palestinian people living under Israeli rule over the past years at a time when the rest of the Arab World was content with issuing mere slogans on supporting the Palestinian people's steadfastness without actually realising the facts about this people or doing enough for their support. Prince Hassan expressed the Jordanian family's pride in the fact that the Arab Nation has re-gained its solidarity at the Amman Arab summit meeting which marks a successful beginning for any discussion on economic and social cooperation.

### Sawt Al Shaab: Prince outlines Jordan's stand

PRINCE Hassan defined Jordan's stand with regard to the current developments in the Israeli-occupied Arab territory and the Palestinian people's revolt in the face of Israeli oppression in his address to the Arab Thought Forum on Friday. The Prince exposed in his speech Israel's false image and the Jewish state's deceptive methods in misleading the world public opinion about the realities in the occupied Arab land. The Prince pointed out that the heroic deed by our people in the occupied land came as a natural reaction to Israel's extremist measures and iron fist policy against the Arab people. This uprising, the Prince said, confused the Israeli leaders and caused trouble in their ranks. Prince Hassan urged the intellectuals and thinkers in the Arab World to help guide the public in understanding the present events and means dealing with them.

The following is the second part of a study by Dr. James Zogby, director of the Washington-based Arab American Institute. Part one appeared in yesterday's newspaper, and part three appears tomorrow.



Gary Hart

Former Colorado Senator Gary Hart burst upon the political scene in the 1984 presidential race, propelled by a self-described campaign of new ideas. While some new ideas are evident in a survey of Hart's foreign policy position papers, they appear inconsistent with the candidate's stated Middle East formula and previous voting record.

Hart's Senate voting pattern is similar with those of his Democratic counterparts. An account of Hart's twelve years in the Senate reveals a record of co-sponsorship of legislation to move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, consistent support for all aid requests to Israel and opposition to arms sales to both Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

Furthermore, a 1981 article in the *London Times*, featured an AIPAC staffer who referred to Senator Hart and Senator Alan Cranston (D-CA) as AIPAC's "point people" in the Senate. In the interview, the staffer said that the two senators were the first they contacted to "get an issue moving."

Readying himself for the 1988 campaign, Hart delivered a series of lectures at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service entitled, "Enlightened Engagement: A Foreign Policy Framework for the 21st Century," articulating the candidate's own world view. "Enlightened engagement" was Hart's framework for a policy in which U.S. military, economic, political and moral power would be exercised by "engaging other nations—not commanding them." Hart noted that we live in "a world where we can rarely impose our will."

Addressing the issue of the Middle East, Hart noted that "in the last half decade, American diplomacy has ignored too many of the Middle East's internal realities," helping to "perpetuate a costly stalemate." The U.S., Hart said, cannot "expect to simply rearrange things to our liking" and that "attempts to do so can backfire in the face of local nationalism."

Those who perceived a new direction in Hart's thinking on Middle East policy would soon be disappointed. In a recent interview on the PBS forum "Candidates '88 with Marvin Kalb," Hart reverted to positions identical to current administration Middle East policy. Hart stated that:

— "improving the quality of life on the West Bank by an increase of money and job opportunities would lead to a decrease in radicalism;

asked if Palestinian rights was the central issue in the Middle East, Hart responded no. It is an issue, Hart said, but the key issue is that the Arab states (referred to as "confrontation states") need to recognise the permanence of Israel.



Paul Simon

Sen. Simon (D. Ill.) has been known to be a fair and thoughtful member of Congress but, when it comes to the Middle East, his statements are at times inconsistent, even contradictory. For example, in 1982 he wrote:

"We should be willing to talk to the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO). The United States could continue to honour Henry Kissinger's pledge not to enter into formal negotiations with the PLO, but maintain informal contact. There will be no permanent settlement of the Middle East situation until the Palestinians regard the PLO as their voice... We do neither Israel nor ourselves a favour by refusing to talk. I would not recognise them... but talk and listen, yes!"

However, two years earlier in 1980, Simon voted for an amendment to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) authorisation bill stating U.S. opposition to the official status of the PLO at IMF meetings. And, five years after writing the above passage, in 1987, he was a co-sponsor of legislation to close the PLO mission to the U.N. and the PLO in Washington, D.C.

In 1980, Paul Simon was one of a very few members of Congress to avoid becoming involved in a resolution to move the U.S. embassy in Israel to Jerusalem. Four years later, however, in 1984, he was co-sponsor of the same bill and sent a letter to President Reagan urging him to make the move.

1984 was also the year that Simon ran against then Sen. Charles Percy, a campaign in which he described himself as "the best friend of Israel." That year the pro-Israel PACs and pro-Israel activists spent millions of dollars to elect Simon and/or defeat Percy.

In a recent interview with a Jewish newspaper, Simon stated his opposition to PLO participation in Israeli-Arab peace negotiations saying, "I think what the U.S. must do is to get the parties together... the resolution is up to Israel and Jordan..."

According to the article, Simon's "instinct" is to create a situation in which Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza "could get a passport called 'JaqPalestine,'" but goes on to say, "We are dealing with emotions rather than reality, but emotions become reality... We can't come up with solutions unrealistic for Jordan or the Israeli government."

On other issues concerning Israel, Simon says that he does not believe that either the Pollard affair or Israel's involvement in U.S. arms sales to Iran have seriously hurt Israel's standing in Congress or in American public

opinion: "Clearly mistakes were made in this area (the Pollard affair). But all nations collect information on each other... including friendly nations... But you have to recognise that if you get caught, you have to take the punishment."



Jesse Jackson

Since first visiting the Middle East in 1979, following the forced resignation of Andrew Young as U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and during the 1979 Israeli invasion of Lebanon, Jesse Jackson's positions have remained essentially unchanged.

As stated in his most recent issue paper, U.S. policy in the Middle East should be built on several principles:

- Palestinian rights to self-determination, including independent statehood;
- Israel's right to security within internationally-recognised borders;
- Lebanon's right to sovereignty and freedom from partition;
- Normalised ties between the U.S. and all Middle East nations; and

— Demilitarisation of the region and increased humanitarian aid that can enhance the stability and prosperity of all nations.

Jackson has recently added a position on the Gulf which calls for an international arms embargo of the combatants in the Gulf and the convening of a U.N.-sponsored peace conference to negotiate an end to the seven years of hostilities.

Jackson's positions on the Middle East are consistent with his overall view of the world and U.S. policy toward the Third World. Most recently enunciated in his *21st Century Doctrine*, this overall policy approach entails:

- Obedience to international law and support for human rights;
- Self-determination, not intervention;
- International economic justice and development.



Richard Gephardt

In 1980, Rep. Gephardt (D-Mo.), voted against congressional

efforts to stop U.S. aid to Syria and to move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Since then his voting record has been consistently pro-Israel.

While Gephardt has a strong Syrian-Lebanese constituency and a number of Syrian-Lebanese staffers in his congressional and campaign offices, this seems to have had little impact on his Middle East position.

In a July article in the "Houston Post," Gephardt outlines his view of the Middle East. While charging that "United States influence and credibility in the Middle East are eroding because the Reagan administration does not have a consistent, coherent and energetic policy toward the region," his policy recommendations vary little from those of the Reagan administration.

Gephardt begins by asserting: "We must not lose sight of the fact that Israel's right to exist is a fundamental and unyielding principle that guides our foreign policy in the Middle East. Our bond with Israel cannot and will not be broken."

From there he asks how the U.S. can establish itself as a honest broker in the Middle East and outlines six steps:

- (1) Presidential leadership is essential... We are seeing a worsening of the Western position and an opportunity for Soviet involvement that is not in our interest. The president must make a personal commitment to energise the American role.
- (2) Develop a consistent policy on terrorism. We must not capitulate to terrorism... We must deprive terrorists of their leverage by articulating a policy of not giving in to their demands... No foreign terrorist group including the PLO, should be given legal sanction or protection in the United States.

(3) Persist in the Camp David process. We must overcome Egyptian and Jordanian resistance to discussing the autonomy provisions of the Camp David Accords with Israel. Direct negotiations under our leadership are still the best way to peace.

(4) Support Israeli-Jordanian cooperation.

(5) Cool the Mideast arms race. Selling sophisticated American arms to countries at war with Israel only exacerbates tensions.

(6) Reaffirm our support for democratic institutions and human rights.



Michael Dukakis

Massachusetts Governor Dukakis's views of the Middle East are puzzling in that they so totally contradict his overall view of the world and U.S. foreign policy. Known to be one of the most dovish candidates—committed to peace through negotiations and debate—one is immediately struck by the ardent nature of Dukakis's rhetoric on the Middle East.

States Dukakis: "We have a vital interest in guaranteeing the survival, security and well-being of Israel, in minimising the political and mili-

ary influence of the Soviet Union and other forces hostile to the West, and in ensuring that we and our allies have access to adequate oil supplies. The creation of a comprehensive Middle East peace agreement remains a central goal of our foreign policy. But we should recognise that an agreement must emerge from the changing attitudes and circumstances within the region; it cannot be imposed by outside powers; and we must recognise, as well, that the essential precondition to progress towards peace has been and remains a decision by Arab leaders to recognise Israel's right to exist, and to enter into formal, direct negotiations with Israel."

Dukakis then makes the usual Democratic gesture towards "building on the Camp David accords." Stating his intention to "encourage direct negotiations between Jordan and Israel," Dukakis fails to spell out how such negotiations are either possible or realistic, or would lead to a just peace.

With regard to the PLO, Dukakis says, "As President, I will oppose negotiations with the Palestinian (sic) Liberation Organisation until that group renounces terrorism (both in practice and in word), recognises the right of Israel to exist, and accepts the text of U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338."



Bruce Babbitt

Former Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt's position is almost identical to that of two other Democratic candidates, Dukakis and Gephardt. He notes:

"Our next president must work for peace and reaffirm our commitment to Israel, the only democracy and our most important ally in the region. We share common values and common geopolitical interests, and our close alliance with Israel is a direct investment in our own national security."

Babbitt then sets forth the following goals for U.S. foreign policy:

- "Securing a genuine peace. It's time to put Middle East peace back at the top of the U.S. agenda. We need to pick up where President Carter left off, with the Camp David Accords. There is no substitute for face-to-face negotiations among the adversary parties, but the United States can play an important role as instigator and honest broker."
- "Commitment to Israel. A strong relationship with Israel, our most important ally in the Middle East, must remain the central end and instrument of U.S. policy in the region. Our ties to Israel are based upon common values and common strategic interests."
- "Economic aid to Israel. American aid to Israel represents an enduring investment in democracy, defence, and peace. Aid to Israel is one of the most cost-effective items in our nation-

al security budget."

Babbitt goes on stating that there should be strong enforcement of the anti-boycott law; no negotiations with the PLO; autonomy, not independence, for the West Bank and Gaza; and a cutting back on arms sales to "fair-weather friends."

Finally, in a note on the "Babbitt Record" supplied by his office:

As governor of Arizona, Babbitt gained valuable experience and a personal appreciation for the ties between the United States and Israel. In two trips to the region, he conferred with Israeli leaders on bilateral relations and on economic development... In early 1986, Babbitt organised a letter from four U.S. governors urging Pope John Paul II to recognise the state of Israel.



Albert Gore

Sen. Gore (D. Tenn.) is the self-styled "hawk" among the Democratic candidates in 1988. In recent months he has sought to distance himself from the other five Democratic candidates by taking a stronger stance on national defence issues and on U.S. foreign and military policy. Gore, for example, was the only Democrat to fully support the reflagging of Kuwaiti tankers and a greater U.S. military role in the Gulf.

Gore is strongly supported, both financially and politically by ImPAC '88, a group of wealthy Jewish Democrats headed by Nate Landow. ImPAC '88 has pledged to support Gore's campaign. While predictably supportive of Israel, his positions remain vague. Nonetheless, Gore states that the U.S. ought not to take a stand in favour of an international Middle East peace conference without an Israeli consensus on the issue.

Says Gore, "I think there are a number of formulas that could suffice to support a meaningful resolution of some of these issues, but it is not for an American president or presidential candidate to stipulate what a solution should be. That is for the parties themselves... I am utterly convinced there are formulas that would work."

Gore declines to say whether those formulas involve territorial compromise but that "they would involve assurances of security and concerning the kinds of weaponry that would be close to the border..."

Gore's voting record while in Congress (since 1976) holds few surprises. However, he did not co-sponsor the bill to close the PLO mission and information office, although he has voted for most of the other anti-Palestinian and anti-Arab legislation that has come before him in recent years.



# Forgive and forget

International banks are changing their attitudes to Third World debts. David Lascelles and Alexander Nicoll review progress.

LONDON — After five years of dogged crisis management, cracks are widening in the strategies adopted by both debtors and creditors in handling the Third World debt problem. Although this implies a weakening in the solidarity which both sides, particularly the banks, have striven to maintain, it could also open the way to new progress.

The cracks have been opened — on the debtors' side — by a greater determination to test new ideas and — on the banks' side — by a growing readiness to recognise formally that many of the loans will never be fully repaid.

The background to this change was set by Brazil's declaration of an interest payments moratorium last February, still not ended, although recently some interest was paid. Subsequently, most of the world's large banks decided to make large provisions against their Third World loans: 25-35 per cent among the large U.S. banks who have the greatest exposure.

In the past few days, some important regional U.S. banks have taken their provisions to about 50 per cent of non-trade-related loans to problem countries. There is an element of competition in this: the bigger the provision, the stronger the bank, the less encumbered its future planning. But it also implies that banks are moving towards a position where they can actually write off their LDC loans on the assumption that they will never be repaid, as some have begun to do.

Such moves would have been unthinkable in the first throes of the debt crisis when many banks could have been bankrupted by their Third World loans. Now they are better capitalised, and strategically more inclined to bear the cost if it frees them from the burden and tedium of constant worry and rescheduling.

## Bankers differ

Many bankers still feel strongly that the larger, middle-income debtors such as Brazil and Mexico can and should continue to service their debts. Other bankers are more prepared to take what they can get.

Such shifts in the attitudes of big debtors and creditors could upset the delicate balancing act which has staved off disaster so far. Indeed, the World Bank has expressed reservations about recent trends in the relationship between the two.

In a report, it said that higher provisioning by banks and building up of arrears by debtors "threaten to break the mould in which the management of debt problems has been set since 1982." Provisions, it argues, reduce banks' incentive to continue participating in new loans, and conversely payments suspensions make it harder for debtors to negotiate with creditors. It called for greater co-operation between the two sides and more leadership from governments in the industrialised world.

This co-operation could be forthcoming — as long as banks are prepared to use their provisions to build more flexibility into their negotiating positions.

The differing views among bankers have been spotlighted by Mexico's innovative loans-for-bonds scheme, announced in December. Effectively, this invites banks to compete with each other

to take what are intended to be once-and-for-all losses on their Mexican loans. It is still far from clear how many banks will participate in this month's auction.

Like other debtors, Mexico has watched banks not only making provisions but also trading loans among themselves at about half their face value. It sees this as an admission by banks that there is little chance of the loans being fully repaid, and is chagrined that it is still expected to service them at full value.

## Mexico's plan

Mexico's plan is evidence of debtors' growing frustration with a rescheduling process which appears to condemn them to years of heavy debt-service payments without the resources to finance significant economic growth. Latin American debtors have found it increasingly difficult to reconcile the demands of foreign creditors for economic adjustment with domestic political constraints. Already this year, Brazil — in bankers' eyes — has gone back on a promise to keep interest payments current from the beginning of 1988. It says it never made such an undertaking to end its payments moratorium.

The Mexican plan attempts to capture the discount at which loans are trading. It invites banks to tender existing loans in return for a smaller amount of bonds. These would be of better quality than the loans they replace — principal but not interest will have U.S. government backing — and would pay a better return.

Banks cannot help but welcome such a positive scheme which is in line with their own "menu" approach of alternative financing methods, designed to freshen what was clearly a worn-out debt strategy. Indeed, the Mexican bonds are really an elaboration of so-called "exit bonds" which excuse the banks taking them from participating in future new loans.

For each bank, however, the offer involves complex mathematics depending largely on individual capital, position and regulatory environment. Which course of action produces the best return?

— To bid aggressively and take a substantial loss on the loans tendered — taking a bond which is likely itself to fall to a discount?

— To sell loans for cash instead?

— To take no action at all, hoping that Mexico's eased debt burden will actually enhance the quality of existing loans?

The answer will vary from bank to bank.

An important precedent

More fundamentally, this plan forces each bank to consider its future strategy and the adequacy of its provisions. It will set an important precedent if it is successful in attracting enough competitive bids. Banks which take part will have to write off a portion of their existing loans, accepting for good that they will not be fully repaid.

It is significant that the plan carries the stamp of Morgan Guaranty Trust, the New York bank which is acting as Mexico's agent. This is one of the biggest lenders and a member of the

advisory committees which have governed the banking community's strategy of rescheduling debt over longer maturities.

Gonzalo de las Heras, the Morgan executive responsible for Latin America, insists that the scheme does not undermine existing debt strategy by setting a precedent for debt forgiveness. Accepting the bonds, he says in volves "voluntary debt forgiveness in the sense that you are given something that you like more than what you have."

## Debt forgiveness

However, certain banks have already written off some of their debts. Bankers are quick to point out that this is not the same as debt forgiveness, but it is easy for debtors to equate the two.

Two medium-size American banks, the Bank of Boston and American Express Bank, plan to write off \$200 million and \$80 million respectively of Latin American loans. Both were keen to point out the advantages of taking their write-offs. Robert Smith, chairman of Amer Bank, described the bank's whole package of LDC debt reduction measures as part of "an orderly exit from cross-border lending", which would give his bank more flexibility.

Ira Stepanian, president of the Bank of Boston, said it would reduce his bank's exposure to the Third World as well as its future reliance on interest income from the loans. And, freed of the worry, he can now get on with his "other plans."

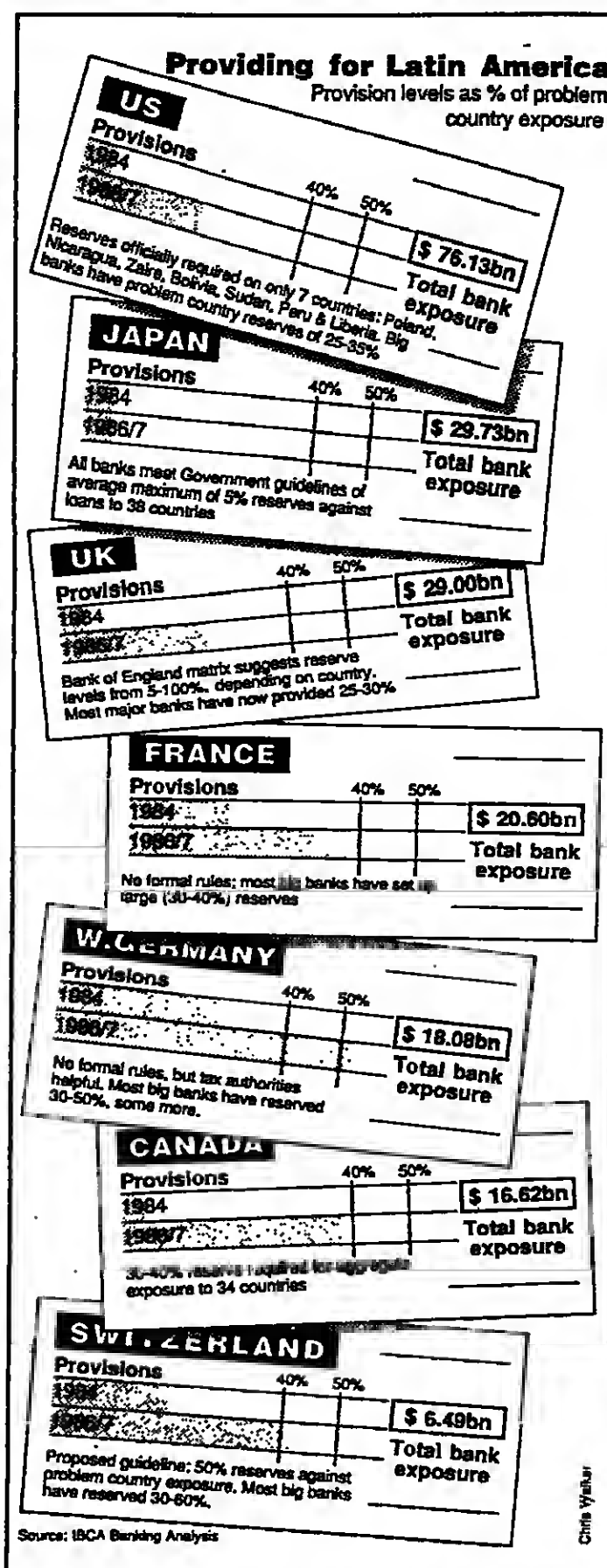
But other bankers both in Europe and the U.S. are less enthusiastic about taking the same route, for several reasons: — Principle. To forgive Third World debts would set a precedent which could be damaging to other parts of the banks' loan portfolios, and involve them in further losses. It would also weaken their bargaining power with the debtor nations. All this would outweigh whatever political credit the banks might earn for valuing their Third World loans at more realistic levels.

— Impact on Bank Strength. U.S. banks still count the provisions as part of their "primary capital," the key determinant of balance sheet strength. So big write-offs would weaken their capital ratios and force them to raise more funds in the market. However, under the new international bank capital proposals of the Cooke Committee, countries will have to phase provisions out of the capital calculations, so there may be more room for manoeuvre in the longer run. In Europe, banks are better placed to make write-offs.

— But in the U.K., banks are being pressed by the Bank of England to move only at the pace of the slowest runner — Standard Chartered Bank, Midland Bank and Lloyds Bank — whose LDC exposure is relatively the highest.

— Solidarity. Few bankers are willing to take a bold step of their own. John Reed, chairman of Citicorp, who triggered last year's provisions, is unlikely to do the same on write-offs. He has stated his firm opposition to them, and Citicorp could not afford such a move because of the balance sheet effects.

— No Logic. Bankers argue that write-offs would make little or no contribution to easing the Third World debt burden, unless they went one stage further and forgave the debt they had written down. This they are not prepared



to do. Both Bank of Boston and Amer Bank said they still expected to be repaid in full — and they will use any interest they receive in the meantime to write down other debts. The Mexican scheme involved a commitment to forgive debt, which is why so many banks oppose it.

Continued involvement in rescheduling and calls for new money. A bank writing off its debt would not escape any obligation to participate in future efforts to raise new loans to help finance interest payments — unless it has formally agreed to forgive the debt. So it would not shake off the problem of being a Third World creditor.

The debate about write-offs is sharpened by doubts over which loans should be written down and by how much. The loans which Bank of Boston and Amer wrote off were to specific types of borrowers, which they did not identify, although Amer said its loans were all in the private sector. Bankers could argue with some force, however, that there is no need to write off loans totally — which continue to trade at 50 per cent of their face value in the secondary market. However,

bankers know that this market is an unreliable guide to second-hand loan values, and they would never be able to sell a useful amount of loans at once.

John Aitken, the bank stock analyst at County Natwest, the investment banking arm of the National Westminster group, says bankers are going through "a mental unravelling process" over write-offs. "In not many months, or maybe a year, they will start writing their loans off," he predicts.

The central issue is that write-offs will not aid the Third World debt problem unless they lead to forgiveness. Mexico is testing one way of extracting such forgiveness from the banks but the sums are small and an unspoken condition of participation by the banks in the bond deal is that no precedents are being set. Nonetheless, as has often happened in the debt crisis, progress can come from sudden and unexpected quarters. The banks are undergoing a slow change in attitudes; in the months ahead, that process would perhaps lead to brave actions — and the first step towards widespread forgiveness — Financial Times feature.

# Protesters clash with Israelis

(Continued from page 1)  
points in Abu Tor on the 1948 ceasefire line dividing West Jerusalem from the Arab eastern sector.

Arab residents in the northern Jerusalem neighbourhood of Anot hlocked the road to the Jewish suburb of Neve Yaacov with burning tyres. Police dispersed them with tear-gas.

Palestinians in Arab neighbourhoods on Mount Scopus threw stones at Israeli vehicles but no injuries were reported. In the West Bank town of Jericho, protesters hurled rocks at the car of Israeli-appointed Mayor Jamil Sabri Khalaf, smashing the windshield, the Palestine Press Service reported. There were no injuries.

In the Azzeh village near Bethlehem, soldiers fired rubber bullets and live ammunition to disperse protesters, the Palestine Press Service said.

An army spokesman said there were stone-throwing incidents at several villages and Palestinian refugee camps in the West Bank. Reports trying to enter Hebron were turned back by troops. Eight Palestinians were shot by soldiers and 21 were admitted to hospital after being beaten by troops during protests in the occupied territories Friday. The Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, toured the Gaza Strip, where the protests began in December, and pronounced the area "calm."

## New settlements

Israeli Radio, meanwhile, said the government would soon begin construction of three new settlements near the "green line."

## Murphy in Syria

(Continued from page 1)  
from U.S. President Ronald Reagan to Assad, but would not disclose its contents. "No further details," he said before boarding the car of U.S. Ambassador William E. Bagley.

Before leaving Washington, State Department spokesman Charles Redman said the U.S. objective was "face-to-face negotiations to resolve the problems which have existed for so long between Israel and its neighbours."

Murphy was expected to visit Saudi Arabia and Israel as part of his Middle East tour.

"This affirms continuation of the American policy in its way which is hostile to our people and our cause," it said in a communiqué issued Friday night.

Qadhafi ends visit

(Continued from page 1)  
pact. "In truth, I am very happy and incapable of expressing what I feel about my pride in my brother Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali and his collaborators," Qadhafi said before leaving Tunisia.

The visit was Qadhafi's first to Tunisia since 1984.

Qadhafi also met Saturday with Chadli Klibi, secretary-general of the Tunis-based Arab League.

Qadhafi flew to Annaba in eastern Algeria to meet with Algerian President Chadli Benjedid.

The official Algerian news agency APS said later, Qadhafi arrived at Annaba near the Tunisian border where he was met by Benjedid, Foreign Minister Ahmad Taleb Ibrahim and Interior Minister Ali Hadi Khediri.

# New U.S. 'initiative' draws doubts

(Continued from page 1)  
professor of political science at the University of Jordan Kamel Abu Jaber, head of the Amman World Affairs Council.

According to Abu Jaber, Reagan will not engage actively in the region lest his party's chances of winning the presidential elections are undermined. Reagan also appears to be careful not to damage his own retirement plans which would need the support of the American community, which is heavily influenced by the Zionists, Abu Jaber said.

But even if the U.S. is serious about reactivating the peace process, the direction that any initiative would take will be influenced by the inherent American-Israeli relationship, said Parliament member Fuad Faraj.

Faraj sees no hope that the U.S. will shift its support for Israel since Israel serves specific American interests in the region. These interests, according to Faraj, include maintaining the fragmentation of the Arab world (started by the British colonialists), creating political unrest in the region and consequently ensuring a stable market for American arms.

Furthermore, Faraj argues, due to the special Israeli role in promoting American interests and playing a pivotal part in some of the American covert operations in the region and elsewhere, Israel has acquired a "blackmailing power on the U.S."

For most analysts this pessimistic outlook was only enhanced by the American attitude towards the Palestinian uprising though some argued that the U.S. position was undergoing real changes.

A staunch advocate of this view is a former minister and the leader of the Democratic Unionist gathering, Jamal Al Shaer, who believes that the Palestinian uprising has made Washington reconsider its position on the Middle East problem.

## Uprising created new facts

"The Palestinian uprising has reminded the Americans that the Palestinian question cannot be shelved," said Shaer. He also argued that the uprising might have changed the American perception of the situation in the occupied territories and if a possible settlement to the problem. "The uprising has clearly proved that what the people want is not an improvement of the quality of life but an end to the occupation," he said.

In his opinion, the uprising has created new facts which have further influenced the American position. These new factors include the split within the American Jewish community, the differences among world Jewish leaders and a changing attitude of the American public towards Israel.

The American administration is also concerned not to alienate its Arab allies "who support and admire the American democracy," according to Shaer.

According to this analysis, it has now become an American interest to move towards reviving the peace process. "The Americans feel that there is something they can do to limit the Soviet role," said Shaer.

Shaer's views are shared by a former Jordanian diplomat. "The U.S. feels isolated and cornered and has to do something to appease the Arab countries," said the former diplomat.

But he expressed doubts that the American move will meet Arab demands or expectations. He noted that all ideas which had been "leaked" to the press so far fell short of fulfilling the Arab demands for an international peace conference and addressing the Palestinian question in all of its aspects.

"Therefore, what is the use of any American move if it cannot be accepted by the parties involved?" he asked. "The U.S. is not helping the Arab governments to take any step further."

## 'No more than a tactic'

Other analysts go further by arguing that any new American step or initiative will not be more than a tactic to quell the uprising by creating the illusion to the Arab governments that there is still hope and bypassing the call for an international peace conference.

This view is shared by Arar, Abu Jaber and Saleh. "In my view, whatever the U.S. is suggesting aims at gaining time to enable Israel to crush the Palestinian uprising and at excluding the idea of an international peace conference," Arar said.

Seen in this context, the same analysts did not rule out the possibility that the U.S. would try to build upon the old-negotiated concept of "self-rule."

They believe that the U.S. position has drawn closer to the Israeli right-wing Likud party, which calls for "self-rule" for the Palestinians in the occupied territories within a one-year interim period.

## Israeli politics

Abu Jaber commented: "The Palestinian uprising is working against the Labour Party and for Likud because of the composition of the Israeli electorate, seen in the shift to the right in Israeli polls. Washington is also watching this trend and they like to support a winner."

But a Palestinian analyst said that it was unlikely that the Americans would endorse "self-rule" by itself "since it has been already rejected by Jordan."

"Therefore, a new American initiative should include new ingredients that would make it appealing to Arab governments and at least to a segment of the population in the occupied territories," he said.

According to the same analyst, one of the American objectives of floating new ideas could be to create "a split in the united Palestinian front in the territories and within the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)."

Shaer strongly opposes such an assessment. He argues that the Arab countries and the PLO should seize the opportunity and seriously consider the new American proposals.

He even supports a reported, albeit unconfirmed, American plan, to hold municipal council elections in the occupied territories, thus forming some form of Palestinian "self-rule" pending the convening of an international peace conference in September.

# New age crystals not just another pretty rock

By Anna Sobkowski  
Reuter

NEW YORK — For years crystals were used to keep radios tuned, watches accurate, and computers running. One type was even a girl's best friend.

Now the old dependable crystal has become a "new age" phenomenon — part of the mix of spiritualism and self-improvement in vogue in the 1980s.

Hundreds of thousands of people in the United States now use crystals for everything from curing headaches and energising their sex lives to making contact with past lives or outer space.

Donna Sessler, a jewellery designer who calls herself "a spiritual gemologist and healer," describes crystals as "life force, God force, God in action in physical form."

Crystals are rocks, but not all rocks are crystals. While the molecular structure of rocks is random, the crystalline structure is beautifully ordered.

To achieve this order — which goes against the universal tendency towards entropy, or chaos — tremendous energy is required over long periods.

A former suburban teacher, Sessler is now a minister in the Church of Traddi, "a universal metaphysical church of truth and light for the coming age of aquarius." She teaches on crystals at an adult education centre.

Three dozen people, young and elderly, devotee and novice, packed a classroom recently to listen as Sessler, who has been studying crystals for 11 years, extolled their virtues.

## Love your crystal

"How do you clear a cloudy crystal" (if you love a crystal it will clear for you, Sessler advised).

"How can you use crystals to get a good night's sleep?" (arrange them under the mattress in the form of a triangle).

"What are chakras?" (there are seven chakras, or energy centres on the body. A crystal applied to the navel chakra, for example, will increase the power to love).

One young woman wondered why holding certain crystals made her dizzy. Sessler explained she could be "over-amped" by the intense energy emanating from crystals and recommended holding a "grounding" stone to counteract the effect.

## A cure for every ailment

Sessler uses many types of crystals for healing, including agate for hardening tender gums, azurite for revitalising damaged tissue, diamond for respiratory problems, garnet for helping the liver get rid of toxins, and green tourmaline — for soothing the

nerves. Although healers have their own ideas about which crystals work for a specific illness, most believe crystals heal by emitting beneficial vibrations when applied to the chakras.

But while the number of crystal believers is growing steadily, not everybody is ready to sing their praises.

"A loony trend that originated in the loony centres of the country," is how Dr. George Harlow, Curator of mineral sciences at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, describes the fad.

"To all the healers and followers I say 'show me proof' they can't, because there is no proof," Harlow, who believes scientists should be more outspoken in debunking outlandish claims, maintains: "Their beliefs go against the scientific method, which is that all physical principles work the same for all people. In the new age world of crystals, certain people can make crystals do things that others can't."

Harlow also believes the trend is dangerous if people abandon traditional medicine for dubious healing methods.

Richard Berger, the founder of Crystal Resources, a store on Manhattan's smart East Side, is also impatient with some of the claims about crystals.

"People are constantly coming into the store with a specific ache

or pain asking for the right crystal," he said, scoffing at what he calls "the take two tourmalines and call me in the morning school of healing."

But he does believe in the power of crystals to heal, which he says comes from using them as "tools to be still with, to meditate with, to help explore your inner reality."

## No scientific proof

Despite the lack of scientific proof of their powers, crystals are big business. Twelve crystal stores now operate in the New York area alone, and more than 2,000 new age bookstores around the country sell a steady stream of books on the subject — often with conflicting and widely diverging claims.

Even Bergdorf Goodman, the Fifth Avenue department store, has a line of crystal jewellery, including chunks of quartz encased in bamboo pouches selling for up to \$4,000, by trendy designer Ina Chow.

A recent message from Chow in the main floor display case read, "Don't think of these as fashion jewellery but more as personal amulets and power pieces.... I believe they are healing pieces and tools for clearing oneself."

The store reports the line has been selling briskly.

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# Liverpool stumbles against West Ham; Luton beats Oxford

**LONDON (Agencies) — Runaway leaders Liverpool suffered a rare indignity Saturday when they stumbled to a 0-0 draw at home to West Ham and found themselves upstaged by the goal exploits of two of the English First Division's least fashionable clubs.**

While Liverpool struggled to extend their club record unbeaten start to the season to 25 matches, Luton beat Oxford 7-4 in an extraordinary clash in front of only 8,000 fans at Kenilworth Road.

Liverpool's point against West Ham kept them 15 points clear of Nottingham Forest and Manchester United at the top. Forest beat Chelsea 3-2 and United, 30 years to the day after the Munich air disaster killed eight of the "Busby Babes," beat Coventry 1-0.

Luton, unbeaten in eight games, made a storming start against Oxford and led 2-0 after only 19 minutes thanks to goals from Mick Harford and Brian Stein.

But Oxford fought back to make it 3-2 at the interval, Dean Saunders with a penalty and Martin Foyle sandwiching another Luton strike from Darron McDougall.

Luton striker Mark Stein then scored an 11-minute hat-trick at the start of the second half, Oxford replying through Richard Hill, to put the home team 6-3 ahead and further goals followed from Harford and Les Phillips before the final whistle.

The two teams meet again Wednesday at Oxford in an English League Cup semi-final first leg.

In Scotland, Glasgow Celtic stayed ahead of city rivals Rangers, at the top of the Premier League, but Rangers' 2-1 win at Aberdeen was marred by the dismissal of international defender

Richard Gough.

Liverpool, missing Gary Gillespie and Ronnie Whelan from their regular side, had several chances to win against West Ham, but were wayward with their finishing and had to settle for only their sixth draw in 25 unbeaten league outings. It was, however, their 10th successive match without conceding a goal.

Nottingham Forest manager Brian Clough had his son Nigel to thank for his team's narrow win over Chelsea. Striker Clough returned to the team after injury for the first time since boxing day and scored the winner with a 60th minute penalty.

Earlier, the second-placed team — who still lead Manchester United on goal difference — had gone into a 2-0 lead with goals from Colin Foster and new boy Gary Crosby before Chelsea responded early in the second half with two goals in four minutes from Kerry Dixon and Kevin Wilson.

Most of the spotlight fell on Old Trafford, home of Manchester United. Players and fans of United and visiting Coventry City observed an emotional one minute's silence to mark the 30th anniversary of the Munich air crash.

The accident, which occurred on Feb. 6, 1958, took place as the United team, under the management of Matt Busby, was on its way home from a European champions cup match in Belgrade.

Most of the team, known as the

"Busby Babes" and at the time one of the world's most exciting club sides, was wiped out.

After Saturday's silent tribute, Liam O'Brien made sure the anniversary co-incided with a United victory, scoring the only goal of the game after four minutes to keep United in third spot on 48 points.

With Everton and Arsenal playing Sunday in the first leg of their English League Cup semi-final, Queens Park Rangers took the opportunity to move up between them into fifth position with a 2-0 victory over bottom club Charlton.

Mark Falco headed Rangers ahead shortly before halftime and substitute John Byrne netted the second midway through the second period.

Wimbledon dropped back a place to seventh after being held 0-0 at home by Newcastle.

Two goals in the last 12 minutes from captain Mel Sterland and striker Lee Chapman earned Sheffield Wednesday a 2-1 win over Southampton who had taken an early lead when striker Colin Clarke scored the 100th league goal of his career from the penalty spot.

Portsmouth were also 2-1 winners against fellow-strugglers Derby for whom winger Ted McMinn, signed from Spanish First Division club Seville in mid-week, made a promising debut.

A mistake by England goalkeeper Peter Shilton, who failed to hold on to a cross, gifted Vince Hilaire Portsmouth's opening goal. Mark Wright equalised, but Mick Quinn hit a late winner for Portsmouth.

Norwich and Watford's clash — billed in advance as a relegation showdown — ended in a 0-0 draw.

## LEAGUE STANDINGS

**LONDON (AP) — Standings after Saturday's British soccer matches (played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, goals against and points):**

English League										
Division One	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Liverpool	25	19	6	0	59	11	63			
Nottingham Forest	25	14	6	5	49	23	48			
Manchester United	26	13	9	4	39	25	48			
Everton	25	12	7	6	36	16	43			
Queens Park Rangers	26	12	7	7	32	28	43			
Arsenal	26	12	6	8	37	25	42			
Wimbledon	26	11	8	7	39	30	41			
Luton	25	11	5	9	39	30	38			
Sheffield Wednesday	26	11	4	11	33	39	37			
Newcastle	25	8	9	8	30	35	33			
Tottenham	26	9	6	11	26	31	32			
Southampton	26	8	8	10	34	38	32			
West Ham	26	7	10	9	28	34	31			
Chelsea	27	8	7	12	33	45	31			
Portsmouth	27	6	11	10	26	43	29			
Norwich	26	7	5	14	23	33	26			
Coventry	24	6	7	11	24	39	25			
Derby County	24	6	6	12	21	30	24			
Watford	26	5	8	13	17	32	23			
Oxford	25	6	5	14	32	53	23			
Charlton	26	4	8	14	23	40	20			

Scottish League										
Premier Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts			
Celtic	31	20	9	2	57	19	49			
Rangers	32	20	6	6	60	22	46			
Hibernian	32	17	12	3	60	24	46			
Aberdeen	32	16	12	4	45	19	44			
Dundee	31	14	6	11	58	40	34			
Dundee United	32	11	10	11	34	36	32			
Hibernian	32	8	13	11	29	35	29			
St. Mirren	31	7	11	13	33	45	25			
Motherwell	32	9	6	17	26	44	24			
Falkirk	32	6	8	18	30	59	20			
Dumfries	31	5	8	18	24	60	18			
Morton	32	2	9	21	22	75	13			

## Scottish Premier League

In Scotland, Andy Walker hit the only goal of the game to secure Celtic's 1-0 home win over Motherwell and Rangers, inspired by player-manager Graeme Souness, won a stormy match at Aberdeen 2-1.

England goalkeeper Chris Woods, returning to the team after four weeks out with injured ribs, was Rangers' hero with a

series of fine saves after Gough was sent off for tripping Willie Falconer in the 54th minute.

Ally McColist and Gough had put Rangers 2-0 ahead by half-time, but Jim Best pulled a goal back with a 46th minute penalty.

Hibernian moved up to third and proved their challenge remains a powerful one by thrashing St. Mirren 6-0 on their own ground. John Colquhoun scored a hat-trick and John Robertson twice.

# Edberg, Jarryd ensure place for Sweden in second round of Davis Cup

**GAVLE, Sweden (Agencies) — Doubles partners Stefan Edberg and Anders Jarryd Saturday booked Sweden's place in the second round of the Davis Cup World Group competition with a 6-3, 7-5, 6-4 win over New Zealand's Kelly Evernden and David Lewis.**

The victory gave defending champions Sweden an unbeatable 3-0 lead without having lost a set ahead of Sunday's reverse singles matches.

The outcome was never really in doubt, with the Swedes taking only 24 minutes to win the first set on the strength of a devastating display of accurate first serves from both players.

Sweden, which has won the Davis Cup three times in the last four years, increased its winning streak in Davis Cup play to eight matches with Saturday's doubles triumph. The Swedes, led by Mats Wilander, whipped India 5-0 in last December's final on indoor clay at Goteborg, Sweden, losing just one set.

Wilander, the Australian Open champion, did not play here because he is taking six weeks off. But he has said he will play in the second round April 8-10, when Sweden is likely to get the home-court advantage against Czechoslovakia. The Czechs led Paraguay 2-0 after the opening singles in Prague.

In another World Group game, Slobodan Zivojinovic overcame the experience of his opponents and the inexperience of his own

partner to spur Yugoslavia to a 2-1 lead over India in New Delhi.

Zivojinovic, partnered by 21-year-old Goran Prpic, wore down Vijay and Anand Amritraj to win the doubles clash 7-5, 6-3, 3-6, 2-6, 9-7.

Indian number one Ramesh Krishnan meets Bruno Oresic and Vijay Amritraj plays Zivojinovic in the reverse singles Sunday.

"Bobo" Zivojinovic, one of the biggest servers in the game, and the wily Vijay were forced to play dominant roles to compensate for their partners fallibility in serving and their net play.

In Palermo, Sicily, Israel's Amos Mansdorf and Shahar Perkiss beat Paolo Cane and Diego Nargiso 7-5, 6-3, 6-4.

Italy leads Israel 2-1 at the end of the second day of competition.

In Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia kept its Davis Cup hopes alive when Chow Chin Chuan and Veera Selvam won their doubles match to deny Sri Lanka the winning point it was seeking in their tennis tie.

Sri Lanka had taken a 2-0 lead through the singles matches Friday and was hoping to wrap up the tie through brothers Arjun and Sujit Fernando but had to concede its doubles match while trailing 5-7, 7-9 because Arjun suffered an ankle injury.

Chow lost to Umesh Wallooppillai and Selvam to Arjun Friday. They will meet in Sunday's reverse singles to decide which team qualifies to meet Pakistan in

the second round.

In Accra, Kenya took a 2-0 lead over Ghana after the opening singles matches of the Davis Cup African Zone Group Two tie Friday.

Eno Polo beat Franklin Ofori 4-6, 6-0, 6-0, 9-7 and Paul Wekesa beat Kojo Atiso 6-4, 6-2, 6-1.

In Jakarta, Indonesian Subaryadi defeated Thanakorn Sirchapan of Thailand 6-2, 6-1, 3-6, 6-4 Saturday to give his team a 2-0 lead over Thailand in the Asian-Oceania zone.

In Mexico City, Australia was ahead one match to zero and up a set in the second in its first round Davis Cup tie with Mexico Friday, when had light halted competition for the day.

In the second singles match, Australian Wally Masur took the first set 6-3 from Mexican Francisco Maciel and the two were tied at two games each in the second set when play was suspended.

The match was to be resumed Saturday before the scheduled doubles encounter.

Earlier in the day, in a five hour, four set marathon, Pat Cash defeated Leonardo Lavalle to put Australia one match up. Playing before 8,000 partisan Mexican fans, Cash defeated Lavalle 5-7, 6-4, 6-1, 11-9.

Last year's Wimbledon champion Cash appeared to have difficulties with the rough clay court and the noisy crowd but was able to overpower the tenacious Lavalle.

## IOC begins week-long deliberations at Calgary

**CALGARY, Alberta (Agencies) — The International Olympic Committee (IOC) will consider this weekend what sanctions to impose against countries boycotting the games.**

IOC Administrator Raymond Gafner told Reuters Friday that a working group set up in December was expected to make a recommendation within the next 48 hours.

The group's views will be considered by a weekend meeting of the IOC executive board before being put forward for ratification by the full IOC session next week.

The IOC must try to resolve the dilemma posed by political boycotts. While it is intent on punishing countries which withdraw from the games after accepting an invitation to compete, it is also eager to avoid imposing further penalties against the athletes.

"In my opinion, it is absolutely clear that we must do something, but we must remain flexible," Gafner said. "There must be some form of sanctions but it must remain possible for the ex-

ecutive board to judge each case separately."

Executive board sources suggested the IOC might seek to resolve the problem by ruling that boycotting countries would be denied a share of the revenue produced by the games.

But there seemed little likelihood of a games ban being imposed on boycotting countries, despite a warning in December by IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch that such a measure might be considered.

The Seoul Olympics in September have attracted a record entry of 161 nations despite concern over a possible Communist boycott in support of North Korea's demands for a share of the games.

Doping will also be a major issue for the IOC before the Winter Olympics open Feb. 13 and the executive board is expected to consider the case of Nikolai Gulyayev, the Soviet speed skater at the centre of a steroids controversy.

Norwegian officials have alleged Gulyayev sold steroids to Norwegian skater Stein Krosby and have asked for the Soviet world champion to be banned from the games.

## Joyner-Kersey, O'Sullivan and Melinte shine at Millrose games

**NEW YORK (R) — Convincing victories by American Jackie Joyner-Kersey in the long jump and Milers Marcus O'Sullivan of Ireland and Doina Melinte of Romania highlighted the Millrose indoor games Friday.**

However, the only world indoor best in the 81st Millrose meet at Madison Square Garden went to American Tim Lewis in the mile walk. Lewis' time was five minutes 33.53 seconds as he eclipsed his old mark of 5:38.02 which he set last year.

Melinte came closest to a world record. Her winning time of 4:21.45 was the second fastest in the world. The world indoor record of 4:20.5 was set in 1982 by American Mary Decker.

Melinte, the 1984 Olympic gold medalist in the 800 metres, took the lead from Briton Kirsty Wade with one lap to go and pulled away. Wade finished second in 4:23.86.

In her indoor season debut, Joyner-Kersey was aiming for the world indoor long jump record of 24 feet, 1/4 inch (7.32 metres) set by Heike Dreschler of East Germany.

Instead, the reigning world champion in the heptathlon and outdoor long jump had to settle for the Millrose meet record of 22

feet, 3/4 inches set on her sixth and final jump.

With seven time Wanamaker mile winner Eamonn Coghlan of Ireland sitting out this meet because of back injury, compatriot O'Sullivan surged to his second Wanamaker mile victory in the last three years in a time of 3:56.89.

O'Sullivan, who beat Coghlan in 1986 and the finished second to him last year, took the lead from another Irish runner, Gerry O'Reilly, with a little more than a lap to go.

Briton Peter Elliott closed the gap down the stretch, but did not have enough power to overtake O'Sullivan.

The expected challenge of world outdoor mile champion Abdi Bile never materialised as the Somali finished fourth in the field of seven.

The world's number one hurdler Greg Foster of the U.S. chased down rival American Renaldo Nehemiah with an explosive midrace burst to win the 55 metre high hurdles in a 7.07 seconds.

Nehemiah faded badly to fifth place behind compatriots Arthur Blake, Cletus Clark and Jack Pierce. Blake was second in 7.10.

Nehemiah, the world record holder in this event, is on the comeback trail after Achilles tendon surgery a year ago and is still struggling to find his old form and technique.

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## India sending 15,000 more troops to crush Tigers

COLOMBO (R) — India is to boost its troop strength in Sri Lanka to about 70,000 in an attempt to crush stubborn resistance by Tamil rebels, Sri Lankan government officials said Saturday.

The officials said 15,000 additional troops are due to arrive. Two Indian army brigades are expected before Feb. 10 and a third by end of the month, they said. That would increase the number of brigades in the island to 15.

The reinforcements would be deployed in the eastern district of Trincomalee and in the Vanni Jangles of the north comprising Vavuniya, Mannar and Mullaitivu districts.

"The influx of more troops is to finish the job against the terrorists as soon as possible," a Defence Ministry official said.

Indian military officials here said transport planes arrived at Batticaloa in the east Friday, some of them capable of carrying between 400 to 500 soldiers.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman in New Delhi said: "We have moved additional troops into Batticaloa but I am not going to go into operational details about whether there were eight or 15

plane loads."

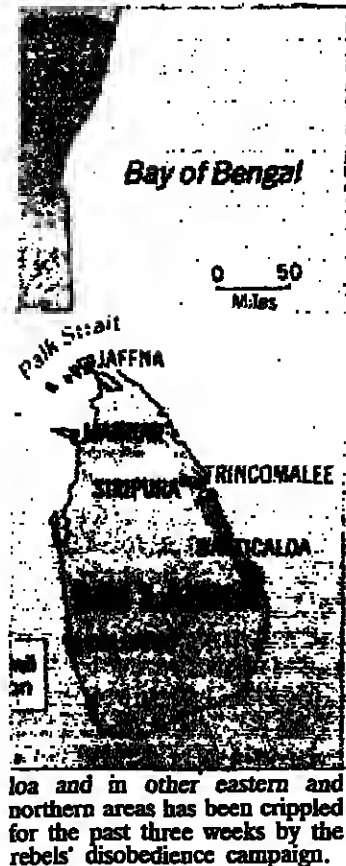
Sri Lankan officials said Indian soldiers in Batticaloa have been pursuing rebels from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam who have switched their campaign for a separatist state from the northern provinces to the east.

An Indian peacekeeping force was sent to the island's northern and eastern provinces in July when both countries signed a pact to end four years of Tamil separatist war in Sri Lanka.

Military officials said the Tigers had regrouped in Batticaloa after their northern stronghold of Jaffna was wrested from them by Indian soldiers in a major offensive last October.

There are now five Indian brigades in the Jaffna peninsula. The guerrillas in Batticaloa have staged ambushes on Indian soldiers, called on government workers not to report for work and told businessmen not to open their shops.

Civil administration in Batticaloa and in other eastern and northern areas has been crippled for the past three weeks by the rebels' disobedience campaign.



## Thailand continues airstrikes against Laotians

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Thai warplanes continued to pound Laotian positions atop a contested border hill Saturday as more Thai soldiers were ordered into the battle, Thai army officers said.

The officers, contacted in Bangkok and near the scene of the fighting, said that troops have retaken about two-thirds of hill 1482 but Laotian artillery fire was slowing down advancing ground troops.

The hill is part of a remote border area contested by both countries. The fighting, which began last November, has escalated in recent days.

The officers, who asked not to be identified by name, said Third Army Commander Lt. Gen. Siri Tivaphan ordered infantry troops to reinforce Thai forces following reports that Laos had sent more soldiers and artillery pieces into the embattled area.

Artillery duels continued Saturday as the Thai sent U.S.-made F-5 jets against the hilltop. Thailand said one of its F-5s was shot down by a surface-to-air missile last Thursday but denied Laotian claims that a second had been downed earlier.

Army Commander-in-Chief Gen. Chaovalit Yongchaiyudh told reporters Friday that more than 200 Laotian troops have been killed and 300 to 400 others wounded in the fighting. Returning from an inspection of the battlefield, located some 380 kilometres north of Bangkok, Chaovalit said that the Thais had also destroyed a number of tanks and artillery pieces.

## Several injured in blasts during Bangladesh strike

DHAKA (R) — Several people, including a policeman, were injured when anti-government demonstrators set off two bombs in Dhaka hours after the latest opposition-led general strike gripped Bangladesh Saturday.

Police said the bombs, packed with metal fragments, went off outside a court building where officials were receiving documents from candidates in municipal elections.

Witnesses said the stone-throwing demonstrators dispersed quickly after armed riot police chased them down nearby alleys.

Twenty-one opposition parties called Saturday's strike, the 21st since Nov. 11, in a fresh attempt to force President Hossain Mohammad Ershad to resign.

The parties are also organising a boycott of parliamentary elections scheduled for March 3.

The stoppage also paralysed the main port of Chittagong. Residents said at least five bombs exploded in the city, where strike supporters briefly clashed with police. About a dozen people were arrested but no casualties reported.

Dhaka streets were empty of traffic except for a few government buses, pedal rickshaws and vehicles carrying police.

On a road reserved for the president, ministers and senior officials, small boys played soccer and vendors sold junk foodstuffs and toys.

Shops were mostly shuttered and schools closed. Trains and river ferries were disrupted but Bangladesh Biman, the national airline, said it hoped to operate all scheduled flights although some might be delayed.

## Panama denounces U.S. indictment of Noriega

PANAMA CITY (R) — Panama has denounced charges against military leader Manuel Antonio Noriega as "an obsessive campaign" that could spark "unforeseeable reactions" and warned that patience and tolerance were wearing thin.

Panamanians were watching anxiously, diplomats said, to see what would happen next after the Foreign Ministry Friday issued a strongly worded statement rebuking drug smuggling and racketeering charges contained in two indictments, made public in Miami Friday, against Noriega.

Noriega was quoted in a U.S. television interview Friday night as saying he would contest the drug charges and that he would fight if necessary to stay in power.

The Foreign Ministry said the government "energetically and indignantly rejects... the obsessive campaign of lies and calumnies against" Noriega and "the attempts by the North American administration... to isolate Panama and destabilise its government."

The government warns that it is extremely dangerous to tax the patience, tolerance and good faith of the Panamanian people with campaigns that could spark unforeseeable reactions," it said.

The Foreign Ministry did not specify what actions might be taken.

## NASA: Shuttle can build space station in 1990s

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. space agency has told Congress that the space shuttle was capable of building and servicing a manned space station in the 1990s.

"With its present capabilities, the shuttle can deliver and support assembly of all station elements," it said in a report requested by Congress.

After the January 1986 Challenger disaster, Congress ordered the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to consider the most cost-effective way to build and service a permanently orbiting space station, the major U.S. space programme for the coming decade.

The NASA report said there were other, unmanned alternatives to using the shuttle, but they would cost more and would take time to develop, probably delaying the completion of a space station.

Under current tentative plans, a 450,000-pound (200,000-kilogramme), 120-yard-long (110 metre) space station will be assembled in orbit over about three years, starting in 1994. By 1996 it will be permanently manned by up to eight astronauts who could stay as long as six months at a time.

The NASA report said assembly of the station would at present require 19 shuttle flights, but that could be reduced to 14 if new, more powerful shuttle booster rockets are used.

## Ex-police chief finds no shoot-to-kill policy in Belfast

LONDON (AP) — A former senior British police officer, who investigated the Northern Ireland police after they shot six people to death, said Friday he found no evidence of a "formal, officially endorsed shoot-to-kill policy."

"What I did find was a state of affairs where some junior officers thought that maybe was expected of them," John Stalker, former deputy chief constable of Greater Manchester, said on Channel 4 television.

Anglo-Irish relations worsened when the attorney general, Sir Patrick Mayhew, told the House of Commons on Jan. 25 that there would be no prosecutions of police officers in connection with the case, despite evidence of perversion of justice.

Stalker said Friday that any prosecutions should have been made 2½ years ago when he presented his evidence, and that the decision at this point not to

prosecute, "probably makes sense."

"It certainly makes political sense, and probably would be oppressive, almost, now to call for the prosecution of relatively junior officers."

Police said Friday they found a Soviet-made grenade launcher and 26 grenades in an arms cache apparently destined for Protestant militants in Belfast.

Another arms load destined for the Irish Republican Army (IRA) also contained two Soviet-made grenade launchers, police said.

The IRA consignments were uncovered Wednesday in an ice cream truck stopped by police outside Belfast, and the Protestant load was found Thursday in an outhouse behind a building in north Belfast, police said.

Press Association, the British news agency, said the loads were the largest found in recent years.

## Tension mounts just days before Iowa caucuses

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the pivotal Iowa caucuses just days away, the tension and hilarity of the presidential campaign both increased.

Bob Dole and George Bush, the Republicans' two top contenders, Friday continued to flout the party's unwritten rule of etiquette that candidates should not speak ill of his Republican rivals.

Meanwhile, Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis won among Democrats and Dole won among Republicans in a light-hearted, semi-scientific poll in the Iowa town of Emmetsburg in which residents showed their preference by flushing toilets on cue.

Officials judged the poll by measuring the drop in the water level of the town's 250,000-gallon (946,000-liter) tank.

It's not a very scientific gauge, acknowledged Emmetsburg city employee William McGrath, "but it's something to be doing. A lot of people really get into it."

Another poll — this one conducted in a more scientific manner for several television stations — showed Rep. Richard Gephardt of Missouri leading among the Democrats for the Monday caucuses, with Sen. Paul Simon of Illinois and Dukakis tied just behind him.

The Iowa caucuses, in which delegates representing the candidates vie to be chosen to attend the parties' national nominating conventions this summer, are regarded as the first decisive test in the lengthy process of choosing the major parties' candidates for the November elections.

In the campaign's noisiest rivalry, Vice President Bush Friday refused Sen. Dole's demands that he apologise for harsh remarks by Bush's Iowa campaign chairman.

The verbal battle between the top two Republican contenders focused attention on the two and stole the limelight from the other candidates, but Bush complained that it was obstructing his campaign.

## COLUMNS 768

### Satellites to hunt for water in UAE

ABU DHABI (R) — The United States and the United Arab Emirates Saturday signed a four-year agreement under which American satellites will search for water in the desert country, embassy officials said.

### Saudis execute drug smuggler

RIYADH (R) — A Chadian was beheaded in the red sea city of Jeddah Friday after confessing to drug smuggling, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. The agency said police found more than 25 million narcotic pills in Ahmad Ibn Ali Ibn Mohammad's house in addition to 25 cases of alcoholic drinks, banned in Saudi Arabia which follows Islamic Sharia Law. Saudi Arabia introduced capital punishment for drugs cases last March and police say drug smuggling had decreased considerably since. Beheadings of drug smugglers, murderers and rapists are carried out in a public square after noon Muslim prayers.

### Gambling is serious problem in China

PEKING (AP) — From the nation's pigsties to the homes of Communist Party members, gambling is making a comeback in China, the official Xinhua News Agency said Friday. "Gambling rears its ugly head again," Xinhua warned in reporting that gambling cases increased from 139,000 cases in 1986 to 173,000 cases involving 635,000 people last year. Xinhua said gambling, banned since the Communist takeover in 1949, ranges from dice, poker and billiards to sitting by the road and guessing whether the last digit of a vehicle licence plate will be odd or even. "After the last digit of a vehicle licence plate will be odd or even," Xinhua said, "the issue of regulations governing offences against public order last year, gambling activities have become more covert." Xinhua said, "They are conducted in peasants' homes located in remote mountainous areas, pigsties and credit cooperatives, and even in homes of Communist Party members and cadres." It said stakes sometimes run into the thousands of yuan (3.7 yuan equals one U.S. dollar), several times the annual income of a Chinese farmer, and that gambling has led to family disputes, divorce, graft, embezzlement, robbery and murder.

### One-shot needle proposed

AMARILLO, Texas (R) — A possible solution to part of the AIDS problem — needles that drug addicts cannot use more than once — has been developed by a local restaurateur, William Douglas, 34, is seeking a patent on his invention, which is still in the design stage but which he calls absolutely foolproof. The Douglas needle has an internal catch in the syringe which, after the first shot, renders it useless. Reuse of AIDS-infected needles has been cited as a major cause of the disease among intravenous drug users. Douglas came up with the idea while watching a news report about New York City's plan to distribute free needles to drug addicts to help prevent the spread of AIDS. He felt the programme was doomed to failure. "The junks are going to use those needles more than once," he said. "What about the guy who doesn't get a clean needle? He'll just borrow his friend's needle." Developing the design for the syringe took two weeks. The catch mechanism will cost about one cent per needle, Douglas said. He could not say when his creation might hit the market.

### Olympic village offers free condoms

CALGARY, Alberta (R) — Athletes at the Winter Olympics can get free condoms — but they will have to pay if they want soft-porn magazines. The two commodities will be available to the 2,500 competitors expected at the Feb. 13-28 games and reflect what organisers say are realities of life in 1988. "We're not running a Victorian temperance society here," said Calgary Olympic Village Mayor Bob Niven of the girls' magazines on sale in the village's store. "We're no different from the world outside." The same philosophy underscores the free condoms policy, which medical officers have instituted to help guard against the sexual transmission of AIDS. "We're not handing out condoms but if an athlete wants them they are available at no cost from the pharmacy," said athlete and emergency services supervisor Annette Heasman. "It's because of the high incidence of AIDS and because public health authorities feel it's in line with preventive care," she said. The Calgary Olympic Village, opened Friday by International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch, will be home to nearly 2,000 athletes and officials during the games, including bob-sledding Crown Prince Albert of Monaco. A further 1,000 athletes, many competitors in exhibition and demonstration sports, are being housed at two more sites outside Calgary.

### Crowd mobs for Michael Jackson tickets

ROME (AP) — About 100 fans of Michael Jackson mobbed a Rome bank and disrupted traffic after a local radio station mistakenly announced that tickets for the singer's Italian tour in May would go on sale immediately. Organisers of Jackson's tour said the 430 branches of the Banca Nazionale Del Lavoro would accept orders for the concerts starting Feb. 10 and send tickets to the homes of the concertgoers. But a crowd of young people wove through traffic in front of the bank on Rome's Via Veneto after they heard a morning broadcast on one of the city's private stations, which informed listeners that tickets for the rock star's three concerts in Italy were available immediately at the bank. The bank decided to oblige those who showed up Friday by taking their orders. Jackson will open a European tour with concerts at Rome's 50,000 seat Flaminio Stadium on May 23 and 24. He will perform a third concert on May 29 in the 45,000-seat municipal soccer stadium in the northern city of Turin. Prices for the tickets will range from 36,000 lire to 55,000 lire (\$30 to \$45).

### Reagan feted at surprise party

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan's wife Nancy and his official family threw a surprise 77th birthday party for America's oldest chief executive Friday that featured the debut of a special song honouring him. "And I used to think I wanted an Oscar," said Reagan, referring to a top film industry award, after Broadway composer Marvin Hamlisch played the song for 70 guests at a luncheon in the White House State Dining Room. Reagan, who seemed genuinely surprised by the birthday fete — he will actually celebrate his 77th birthday Saturday — quipped that since he now had a song of his own, "I'm going to take singing lessons." Later Mrs. Reagan, her eyes glistening with tears, gave her husband a hug and kiss as White House officials, members of the cabinet and friends sang "happy birthday."

### Man chained for 6 years after ax attack

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — A man thought to be insane after he ran amok with an ax was shackled in a hut by his father for six years, a newspaper has reported. Peter Chirimimba, 47, was chained by an ox harness around his neck and arms by his 70-year-old father, Munetsi, in the Rushinga district in north eastern Zimbabwe, the Herald reported. The younger Chirimimba was shackled in the hut in 1982. He was provided with food, but had not had a bath until Wednesday, when police took him to a hospital, the newspaper said. His father told the Herald his son was treated by a traditional healer, commonly known as a witch doctor, after the violent outburst, but afterward he continued to assault members of the family. "I decided to chain him up and lock him in the hut," said the elder Chirimimba. Police said they were investigating the case, but viewed it with "understanding."

**GOREN BRIDGE**

BY CHARLES GOREN  
AND OMAR SHARIF  
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**TRICKS OUT OF STRAW**

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

**NORTH**  
♠ 8 4  
♥ K 6 5  
♦ A K Q 3  
♣ A 8 2

**EAST**  
♠ J 10 6  
♥ J 8 2  
♦ J 10 7 4 2  
♣ Q 6

**SOUTH**  
♠ A K 9 5 2  
♥ 10 7 2  
♦ 9  
♣ K 10 7 4

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1 NT Pass 2♦ Pass  
2♦ Pass 3♦ Pass  
4♦ Pass 4♦ Pass  
Opening lead: Queen of ♣

Desperate tactics usually end up costing tricks. But once in a while a hand will crop up where the astute player will realize he must resort to the bluffs if his side is to have any chance. If he is successful, the results can be flabbergasting.

South probed for a major suit in his partner's hand with his Stayman two-club bid, then offered his partner a choice of contracts with his jump to three spades. North showed a maximum no trump with diamond strength, but that was the last thing South wanted to hear.

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The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has applied for a loan from the World Bank, and intends to use the proceeds of this loan to finance part of the cost of the project for which this invitation to bid is issued. As the available World Bank financing is insufficient to cover all the cost of this procurement, bidders are invited to submit in addition to the bid price a financing offer, at their option, to finance the contract cost or part of it.

All interested manufacturers/suppliers from the World Bank member countries, Switzerland, and Taiwan - China, are invited to participate in this tender, in accordance with the terms, stipulations and technical specifications contained in the bidding documents.

Bidding Documents may be obtained from the office of the Secretary of Tender Committee, P.O. Box 1689, Telecommunications Corporation, Amman - Jordan, as of Thursday, February 11, 1988, against a payment of a non-refundable fee of one hundred (100) Jordanian Dinars (JD).

Bids, accompanied by bid security, are to be submitted in English to the office of the Secretary of Tender Committee not later than 12:00 noon local time on Saturday, April 16, 1988.

**Director General**  
**Eng. Mohammad Shahid Ismail**

## White House temporarily accepts contra aid defeat

WASHINGTON (R) — White House officials said they would sit back sceptically and watch how Central American peace efforts unfold without the pressure of U.S. military aid to Nicaragua's contra rebels.

U.S. officials said the administration had no other choice following the congressional defeat of President Reagan's bid to send the contras an additional \$36.25 million in aid which would have included \$3.6 million for weaponry.

"After the Iranarms scandal, I can't imagine anyone around here trying to get around this vote," said one official who asked not to be identified.

When Congress previously cut military aid to the contras, White House officials tried to evade the ban, in part by diverting to the rebels profits from arms sold to Iran in breach of a U.S. embargo.

It became Reagan's worst foreign policy scandal.

After Congress defeated the aid over Reagan's insistence that military pressure was needed to make Managua's Sandinista government comply with a regional peace plan, the White House said Central America would take on the burden.

"Now the major burden shifts to the other Democratic (Central American) countries to keep pressure on the Sandinistas to negotiate honestly and expeditiously," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters Friday.

He proclaimed the 219-211 House of Representatives defeat of the aid package Wednesday "a vote down for freedom because we're very sceptical if it will work."

"But our only recourse now is to see if it does," he said.

Fitzwater left open the possibility Reagan would ask again for military aid if by Feb. 29, when current assistance expires, there had not been sufficient progress towards a ceasefire in Nicaragua.

Sandinista and contra officials have met once to discuss a ceasefire as part of a Central American peace plan, signed by the region's five presidents last August, that sought an end to guerrilla wars and democratic reforms in the region.

Democratic Party opponents of the aid proposal argued Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega was sincere in his promises to comply with the Guatemala pact. In San Salvador, El Salvador's government said Friday the U.S. House of Representatives' rejection of the aid package meant Ortega no longer had an excuse for failing to comply with a regional peace plan.

## Soviets conduct nuclear test

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union conducted an underground nuclear test explosion Saturday at its site in Semipalatinsk in central Asia, TASS news agency reported.

TASS said the explosion, with a yield of up to 20 kilotonnes, was carried out at 7:20 a.m. Moscow time (0420 GMT) "with a view to checking the results of studies in the field of physics of the nuclear explosion."

The test was the first carried out by Moscow this year and the 17th since the Soviet Union ended a unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing last February.

**TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION**  
**TENDER NOTICE**  
**NO. TCC 2/88**

**SUPPLY OF LOCAL LINE PLANT SERVICES AND ACCESSORIES**

The Telecommunications Corporation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (TCC) announces Tender No. TCC 2/88 for the Supply of Local Line Plant Services and Accessories as part of the Implementation programme of the Five-Year Development Plan for the expansion of the Telephone Network in Jordan.

Specialised companies are hereby invited to submit their bids in accordance with the terms, stipulations & technical specifications contained in the Bidding Documents.

Bidders are requested to submit, in addition to bid price, a financing proposal to finance the cost of the subsequent contract to be awarded.

Bidding Documents may be obtained from the office of the Secretary of Tender Committee, Telecommunications Corporation, P.O. Box 1689, Amman - Jordan, as of Thursday, February 11, 1988, against a payment of a non-refundable fee of five hundred (500) Jordanian Dinars (JD).

Bids, accompanied by bid security, are to be submitted in English to the office of the Secretary of Tender Committee not later than 12:00 noon, local time on Saturday, May 21, 1988.

**Director General**  
**Eng. Mohammad Shahid Ismail**

محمد شاهيد اسماعيل